

## Fuel shortage worsens in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — A two-month-old fuel crisis, during which gasoline was strictly rationed, worsened this weekend when the government suspended rations for all vehicles except public transport mini-buses and airport taxis. The government cut regular television programmes Saturday night to announce that all private cars, trucks and motorcycles would not be given their weekly ration Sunday "because there are no recent petrol imports." The announcement said that the only vehicles to receive a weekly ration were public transport mini-buses and airport taxis. The financially strapped military government does not have enough foreign currency to pay for fuel. Gasoline shortages and rationing have occurred in Sudan before, but never to the extent that the government had to suspend the ration system. Over the past few weeks, mini-buses got a daily and not weekly ration. Mini-bus drivers sold the gasoline on the black market for up to 10 times the original official price of 150 pounds (\$1) per gallon. In Cairo, opposition Al Wafd newspaper reported that Sudan's military强人 Omar Hassan Al Bashir visited Libya this week to get Libyan oil. But the newspaper reported that Libya refused to give Sudan any until it paid the U.S. \$200 million Sudan owes Libya from past oil bills.

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## Hizbullah: Obeid interview 'cheap blackmail'

BEIRUT (R) — The pro-Iranian Hizbullah accused Israel on Sunday of "cheap blackmail" by allowing the broadcast of an interview with detained Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid. The group charged in a statement in Beirut that the Jewish state was torturing some 250 Lebanese prisoners held inside its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon and in Israel. The "Voice of the South" radio station, mouthpiece of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, said Friday it would broadcast an interview with Sheikh Obeid this week. It aired excerpts in which Sheikh Obeid said he was being treated well. It said he had appealed for an exchange of missing Israeli servicemen and Lebanese prisoners, but did not air this part of the interview. The radio has broadcast interviews with Lebanese detainees every Friday for a month in which they have urged Hizbullah to arrange an exchange. Sheikh Obeid, a Hizbullah official in South Lebanon, was kidnapped by Israeli commandos in the Lebanese village of Jibchit in July 1989. He has been held since then at a jail inside Israel. Israel says it will release Sheikh Obeid and the other Lebanese prisoners if a captured Israeli plane navigator, Ron Arad, and the bodies of five other missing soldiers are returned. Hizbullah said Israel was to blame for the failure of efforts to win the release of the prisoners.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams



## Israeli shelling wounds Lebanese

TYRE (AP) — Israeli gunners and their Lebanese allies shelled coastal waters near this port city Sunday, wounding a Lebanese fisherman, police said. They said Israeli troops and militiamen from the South Lebanon Army opened up on several fishing boats shortly after sunrise from a hilltop position at Bayada. Bayada, 12 kilometers south of Tyre, is inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon. Hussein Hijazi, 45, was wounded in the shelling, which lasted about five minutes, police said. Fellow fishermen took Hijazi to a hospital in Tyre, 80 kilometers south of Beirut, police said.

### Algeria seeks Italian help in probe

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria is to ask Italy for information on business deals in which Algerians might have been involved in corruption, particularly over a gas pipeline linking the two countries. The official news agency APS said at the weekend that Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam had ordered the inquiry after press reports of corruption in Italy "probably implicating Algerian nationals, during the signing and execution of contracts for a pipeline linking Algerian fields to Italy via Tunisia since the start of the 1980s."

### Russian forces in Germany deny plot

BONN (R) — Former Soviet armed forces still based in eastern Germany Sunday dismissed as nonsense a newspaper report that their officers were preparing a coup against Russian President Boris Yeltsin. East Berlin's Kurier Am Sonntag said officers from Russia's Western Group, acting without the knowledge of commander-in-chief General Marvei Burlakov, planned to fly 2,000 elite combat troops to Russia to support Mr. Yeltsin's opponents. Asked about the newspaper report, a spokesman for the Western Group told Reuters: "That is utter nonsense."

### 45 killed in Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops fought heavy artillery and tank battles with Tamil rebels during a new offensive in the northern Jaffna province, the military said Sunday. More than 40 Tamil Tiger rebels were either wounded or killed in Saturday's combat, and five soldiers were injured, a military statement said. There was no word from the rebels belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Sri Lankan military regularly launches attacks in the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, about 300 kilometers north of Colombo, but has made little gains in a decade of fighting.

### Widow says Asif Nawaz was poisoned

RAWALPINDI (R) — The widow of Pakistan's former army chief General Asif Nawaz who died in January said on Sunday he had been poisoned in a political murder. Mrs. Asif Nawaz made her allegation at a news conference, but was unable to say exactly how her husband had been killed or by whom. Gen. Nawaz, 56, died last January of a heart attack during early morning exercises at his home in Rawalpindi, headquarters of Pakistan's powerful military. "I am sure that this unnatural death was a political assassination," she said, adding that she was considering whether to bring charges but declined to say against whom.

### 7 wounded in Karachi blasts

KARACHI (R) — Seven small bombs exploded across Pakistan's commercial capital of Karachi on Sunday, injuring seven people, officials said. "The explosions that occurred in Karachi this morning were an act of terrorism, perpetrated by forces that do not want peace and security in the province of Sind," provincial Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah said. The government blamed the seven explosions within three hours just after dawn on "miscreants and disgruntled elements." Police said no one had claimed responsibility.

## Israel to keep indefinite closure of occupied lands

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

The Israeli government voted 16-2 Sunday to keep the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip sealed indefinitely and sharply cut the Palestinian work force in Israel.

The cabinet adopted proposals by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who believed a separation of the two peoples is vital to curb violence and win support among Israelis for future concessions in peace talks.

Two left-wing ministers voted against the plan, saying they back the idea of separation, but feel more aid should be given to the depressed Palestinian economy which suffered a further blow from the closure imposed March 31.

Military brass have warned that the closure could breed more violence. The restrictions bar two million Palestinians from entering Israel, including 120,000 labourers.

Palestinian peace negotiators complained that Israel unilaterally decided issues that should be negotiated in the Washington talks on Palestinian autonomy.

"Rabin is imposing his vision of the transitional period regardless of our views," said negotiator Ghassan Khatib.

Israel's hawkish opposition also opposes a long-term closure, saying it is the first step towards Palestinian independence.

In a special session Sunday, the government decided to review the closure order from week to week and to give some assistance.

(Continued on page 5)

## Hamas seeks aid for Palestinians from Gulf

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuter

AMMAN — The Islamic movement Hamas said on Sunday it hoped to increase funding and political support from Gulf Arab states for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Hamas, the main rival of the secular Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is seeking a resumption of aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories, suspended by Gulf Muslim charities because of the PLO's pro-Iraq stand during the Gulf crisis.

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghoesh, who has just returned from Qatar, told Reuters the mission had been a success and he hoped it would be a prelude to other visits to the Gulf.

"We foresee invitations by other Gulf states to further explain Hamas's political and ideological aims," said Mr. Ghoesh, who met Qatari leaders including Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Hamas sources say the expellees are receiving financial and political support from Islamic groups in the Gulf.

find it easier to improve its image in the Gulf because it was more explicit than the PLO in calling on Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait.

"We found good encouragement from our Qatari brothers for Hamas's performance in the occupied territories and the need to keep the Palestinian cause in the Arab and Islamic conscience," Mr. Ghoesh said.

Kuwait and other Gulf states forced tens of thousands of Palestinian residents to leave after the Gulf war, cutting off remittances which had helped support their families in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jordan.

Gulf states also halted government aid to the PLO, plunging it into financial crisis. Saudi Arabia recently allowed the resumption of private aid to the Palestinians.

Hamas, which entered the limelight after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon, most of them supporters of the movement, has offices in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Hamas sources say the expellees are receiving financial and political support from Islamic groups in the Gulf.

## Palestinians to discuss elections, compromise with U.S. officials

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian legislative elections in the occupied territories and the finalisation of a "package of statements and commitments" will be discussed during a visit by a Palestinian delegation to Washington in the next 48 hours, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official said Sunday.

Dr. Haidar Abdin Shafiq will lead the Palestinian delegation to the talks with senior members of the U.S. State Department, the PLO official said on condition of anonymity.

The possibility of legislative elections in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza will be discussed during talks in Washington," said the PLO official, speaking to the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

A 180-seat legislature will be discussed by the Palestinian delegation with American officials.

cials, the sources said.

The Palestinians will stress the need for such a self-governing infrastructure in the interim period of self-rule, the official said. But the topic of legislative elections will only be one in a number of priority issues for the Palestinians in Washington.

The list of issues on the agenda, Palestine Central Council (PCC) member Saleh Raafat said, will be expected in simultaneous announcements by the Palestinians, Israelis and Americans.

An (Israeli) commitment not to resort to deportation of Palestinians will be at the head of the agenda," he said.

According to PLO sources, statements and gestures expected to come from the Israeli government before and immediately after the scheduled resumption of talks April 20 are expected to include 1) repatriation of some 130 to 150 exiles in southern Lebanon; 2)

repatriation of some 40 to 50 Palestinian "personalities" expelled since 1967; 3) a commitment not to resort to the expulsion of any more Palestinians; 4) a release of a large number of Palestinians jailed for intifada-related incidents; 5) a scaling-down of the Israeli military presence in Palestinian

cities and towns, and 6) a statement committing the Israeli government not to use collective punishment such as the destruction of homes.

Another "essential" issue to be included in the Palestinian-American talks will be the confirmed linkage between the interim and final stages of the peace talks.

"We have always insisted that these two stages must be organically linked, while the Israelis want to separate them," Mr. Raafat said.

An announcement of the acceptance of such a linkage may be made by the Israelis in the statements which the PLO says Israel will make prior to the scheduled resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks April 20.

"We hope to be able to come to an agreement on an agenda with the Israelis so that we don't spend this next round arguing about the agenda again," Mr. Raafat said.

The Palestinians will insist that the linkage between the interim and final stages be agreed upon and the principle on withdrawal from all areas occupied in the 1967 war be accepted.

Dr. Abdul Shafiq will remain the head of the bilateral negotiating team for the Palestinians even after Faisal Husseini becomes an official member of the negotiating team, a senior PLO source said from Tunis.

"Haidar Abdin Shafiq will be the head of the bilateral team. Mohammad Hallaj will be the overall head of the multilateral team and Faisal Husseini will be the head of the negotiating team as a whole," said the official.

The Palestinian delegation which will be led this week to Washington by Dr. Abdul Shafiq will include negotiators Saeb Erakat, Nabil Kassis, Suad Al Amari, and Ghassan Al Khatab.



Haidar Abdin Shafiq

## Mubarak, Rabin to meet Wednesday

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet in Egypt Wednesday to try to put Middle East peace talks back on track. Mr. Rabin's spokesman said Sunday.

"Tentatively such a meeting is scheduled and now we are just waiting for an official announcement from Egypt," Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari told Reuters.

He said the meeting would take place in Ismailia but added Egypt had to make the formal announcement because it initiated the summit.

In Cairo, Mubarak spokesman Mohammad Abdul Monem initially confirmed the summit would take place on Wednesday in Ismailia.

But at the weekend a solution, at least in part, seemed to glimmer on the horizon.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday there was a proposal to admit Faisal Al Husseini, a Palestinian leader from Jerusalem, to the talks.

Mr. Husseini, overall the coordinator of the Palestinian peace team, has been barred from the negotiating table by Israel in the past for fear his presence would raise the issue of Arab East Jerusalem.

Israeli officials have said Mr. Mubarak does not want to pressure Israel for

(Continued on page 5)

## Foreign pilgrims mark Easter as Palestinians remain under siege

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)

"We see more tourists than citizens in Jerusalem this year," Hanan Khouri, 22, a student from Nazareth, said as tourists gazed at a procession of Franciscan monks walking on the oil-soaked stone slab a blessing.

The church is shared by the Catholics and Greek Orthodox, and their varying chants, incense and costumes do not give an impression of divine order.

The pilgrims strolled by stalls featuring the trinkets morning on their way to the church which tradition marks as the site of Christ's burial.

A bag of frankincense cost five shekels (\$1.80) and a Jesus quartz watch, with his face in the centre was selling for 70 shekels (\$25).

Conspicuously absent from the Easter services were Christian Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip because of a closure Israel imposed on the occupied West Bank and Gaza

strip almost two weeks ago.

"We are talking of a very poor and despairing population ... in a week or two the flour sack will be empty and you have a situation which is dangerous to us security-wise, is a mistake politically and unbearable from a humane weather the closure.

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"About 40,000 pilgrims came for Easter this year," Israeli officials said.

Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Orthodox Palm Sunday prayers were so crowded worshippers edged up stairways and had to grasp door knobs and bannisters to keep their balance. Still, many seemed awed by the experience.

A procession of Catholic pilgrims circling the Stone of Anointing — where Jesus was believed

to be anointed after the crucifixion — intersected with tour groups moving in the opposite direction. In their midst, a Greek woman busily wiped children's clothing on the oil-soaked stone slab a blessing.

The church is shared by the Catholics and Greek Orthodox, and their varying chants, incense and costumes do not give an impression of divine order.

"People prepare themselves to be happy, but inside they are sad. Look, police are everywhere," she said, pointing to the church courtyard. "We will go and pray quickly and go home. There is no sense of peace and safety."

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to be anointed after the crucifixion — intersect

## Pakistan to deport Arabs

PESHAWAR (AP) — Ninety-eight Arabs waiting to be deported Saturday sat inside a filthy old hall once used for weddings, angry about their impending ouster.

"Pakistan cares only what the United States wants, not what Muslims want," said Jordanian Abdul Quddus, accusing Pakistan of selling out to the United States, fearing it might be declared a terrorist state.

Last week, Pakistan launched a police crackdown to flush out Arab nationals living in the country illegally.

Several Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, claimed some of their fundamentalist Islamic foes had found sanctuary in Pakistan or next door in Afghanistan, where they had fought with U.S.-backed insurgents to overthrow the old communist regime.

Pakistan is now trying to identify the Arabs they have in custody, said Masud Shah, police inspector general.

Those wanted for criminal offenses will be extradited and the others told to leave the country, he said.

"They are here illegally. They cannot stay," he said.

But some of the Arabs, living in this wild frontier city that once

welcomed them as brothers-in-arm, say they feel betrayed.

Mr. Quddus, who said he would be arrested and jailed if he tried to return to Jordan, fought for four years in Afghanistan with renegade rebel chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"We thought we had a golden opportunity in Afghanistan to create a Muslim state. We were fighting not just for Afghans but for all Muslims," he said.

Mr. Quddus said he will now take his dream of an Islamic revolution to Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he hopes to establish an Islamic state.

Others, he said, will go to Africa or Tajikistan, where the pro-communist government is battling Islamic militants.

One young Arab militant, who refused to give his name, said he would return to his home in Algeria and join the Islamic Salvation Front.

"Soon, very soon I will leave and go home," he said. He, too, had fought with Mr. Hekmatyar. "No-one said anything about them before because then it was for a noble cause," said Mr. Shah.

Thousands of Arab militants were attracted to Pakistan to fight in what they considered a holy war in Afghanistan, Mr. Shah

said about 2,800 are still in Pakistan.

Some fundamentalist Arabs say Pakistan is a puppet and the United States is pulling the strings.

"This is an American operation. We are not criminals, we are not terrorists," said Ghassam Andulusi, a tunisian visiting his brother in the converted wedding hall deep in the heart of Peshawar's old city.

He screamed at an American journalist: "This is an American conspiracy. You have come here for control."

But Mr. Shah said the crackdown was two months in the planning.

This was something we had to come to grips with. They cannot justify their staying any longer," he said, referring to the rebel leader in Afghanistan last year.

"The jihad is over."

In Dhaka, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told a regional summit Saturday that South Asian countries must protect fundamental rights and fight religious fanaticism.

"We must protect the fundamental rights of our nationals without discriminations. We must counter menace of religious fanaticism and intolerance," he told a meeting.



MANOEUVRES IN GULF: American army personnel train during trilateral American-Kuwaiti-British naval exercises in Kuwait (AFP photo)

## Somalis rebuild lives in Bardere

BARDERE, Somalia (R) — At the height of the Somali famine, 250 people were buried every day in the southern village of Bardere, but now the U.S. military hails the dusty outpost as its success story in Somalia.

"When we arrived, bodies were literally floating down the river," said U.S. Marine Colonel Buck Bedard, who visited Bardere Saturday with the commander of U.N. forces in Somalia, Turkish General Cevik Bir.

"This is the true success story of people getting back onto their feet," said Col. Bedard.

Since 800 U.S. Marines rolled into Bardere on Christmas Eve, the death toll has dropped to between 10 and 12 a day, now mostly from disease rather than starvation.

The village now has a bustling market and crops are being planted in preparation for the first rains.

Aid agencies say the emergency phase is largely over and de-

velopment and reconstruction work is beginning in Bardere, which has a population of about 15,000.

In a meeting with village elders, Gen. Bir praised the local community for their success in Bardere and assured them there would be no change when U.N. forces take over next month.

"There will be no gap during the transition. Only the faces and uniforms will change," Gen. Bir said.

About 15 men of the new police force greeted the Turkish general, fresh in uniforms delivered a day earlier.

The police station, on the banks of the Juba River, is rudimentary. Prisoners are held in a rusty blue shipping container, with four postcard size holes cut out for air.

Police chief Captain Mohammad Abdi told Reuters' patty

was the main crime but his men had been successful in apprehending murderers.

Murder is dealt with harshly and Capt. Abdi said one man was shot last month. Another execution is due in the next few days.

U.S. Marines have adopted an orphanage in the village and built a school and a playground for the 750 children there.

Gen. Bir's bodyguard handed out balloons and candy while Col. Bedard carried a child on his shoulders during a tour of the orphanage.

"The Marines have made our lives much better now. The children have food and we live in peace," said Yousef Mohammad, the chief of the village.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Sullivan, who controls a reduced force in Bardere of 350 Marines, said the area was now free of weapons. "We haven't found one weapon in over 35 days," he said.

Two hundred Botswanan troops are due to take over Bardere in the next few weeks as part of the handover to U.N. forces.

## Southern Somali port still simmers

KISMAYU (AP) — The U.S. Marines and the Belgian troops wish the rainy season would hurry up and start, as it usually does this time of year.

True, it is tougher to manoeuvre through boggy roads and fend off mosquitoes the size of dragonflies. But it is the best chance to buy time while trying to cool the tempers of rival clans who have been battling for control of this southern port city of 160,000 people.

Kismayu remains one of Somalia's most intractable problems. It is steeped in factional rivalries brought to a boil by what is basically a property dispute.

Sit down with either side for a half-hour and come away convinced that their claims to particular homes or properties are genuine. Each can trace traditional ownership for generations.

"There are deep-seated animosities. It's a very difficult and emotional issue," U.S. special envoy Admiral Jonathan Howe said after a visit to the region Thursday. "It's not going to be solved in a few days or a few weeks."

Kismayu looked to be on the track to peace last month, when clan elders met face-to-face. The militia of Colonel Omar Jess and Mohammad Said Hirsi, known as General Morgan, turned in small arms and weapons-mounted vehicles.

A U.S. army contingent handed over control of the Kismayu district to the Belgians on March 5. Thirteen days later, they had to go back.

They left again, but when trouble broke out once more, more than 2,000 Marines went ashore March 25 as a show of force. They were supposed to stay two days. They are still here.

The Red Cross pulled out temporarily last week and other agencies curtailed operations af-

ter Jess supporters sought refuge at the Red Cross, the Medicins Sans Frontieres hospital and a former police compound. They were evacuated by the Belgians as Morgan supporters swarmed outside.

Two grenades exploded inside the Red Cross compound, and there were unconfirmed reports of 15 dead at the police compound.

The balance of power in Kismayu has shifted from Col. Jess to Gen. Morgan since foreign troops arrived in December to safeguard food deliveries. Some 350,000 Somalis died last year from civil war, famine and disease.

The foreign troops vehemently deny charges of favouritism. Military officials say Gen. Morgan's tactics, honed at the National Defence University, run by the U.S. Defence Department in Washington, D.C. served him well.

Most of Jess supporters have fled or been evacuated to towns and villages to the north — like Barca, where the wounded lie on blankets on the floor of a makeshift hospital, or Goob Weyne, where vultures roost in the acacia trees.

"Jess is trying to regroup," said Brigadier-General Raymond Keymeulen, commander of the Belgian forces. "He won't succeed. He doesn't have enough support, enough weapons. Morgan is the winner."

Adm. Howe got a taste of the tension in his first trip to the region.

He was cheered by a crowd of more than 300 Morgan supporters inside the city. But an angry group of more than 100 Jess backers threw stones at Adm. Howe's convoy as he left a meeting with elders in Jilib.

The Belgians fired a warning shot as the crowd became unruly.

"The pressure was as heavy as I've ever experienced... but when I made clear what is nature of our commitment was, how we were pretty stretched with peacekeeping operations elsewhere, that was well understood," Mr. Evans told the Nine Television network.

Australia's battalion is part of the U.S.-led multinational peacekeeping force in Somalia.

The Australian government made it clear when it sent the troops in January that the battalion would return home in May.

Australia also has 500 peacekeepers in Cambodia and smaller numbers of troops in the Western Sahara, the Middle East, Pakistan and elsewhere.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraq says refugees hurt at Saudi camp

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Saturday that Iraqi refugees at a camp in northern Saudi Arabia had fought Saudi guards with clubs and knives and many refugees were wounded. The refugees had staged a demonstration and burnt down a building and some shops in the camp market, the official Iraqi News Agency said, quoting British travellers from Saudi Arabia. The agency, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, did not say when the incident took place and Saudi officials were not immediately available for comment. The camp at Rafah, close to the Iraqi border, holds about 28,000 Iraqis, some of them former prisoners-of-war who refused to go home after the Gulf war over Kuwait. The others took refuge in Saudi Arabia after fighting in southern Iraq between the Iraqi army and Shiite Muslim rebels. The Iraqi agency said the Saudi authorities sent two armoured battalions of the National Guard to the camp after the disturbance and imposed a curfew. It did not say why the refugees had demonstrated.

### Gulf states donate money to Guinea worm programme

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia have donated more than \$12 million to a programme run by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to combat the guinea worm disease. Mr. Carter told a news conference in Abu Dhabi Saturday that the UAE has contributed several million dollars and Saudi Arabia up to \$7 million to the programme in India, Pakistan, Latin America and 17 African countries. "We are attempting to eradicate guinea worm disease from the face of the earth... by 1996," Mr. Carter said. The Emirates News Agency said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan had donated more than \$5 million to the Carter Center in the U.S. state of Georgia, which runs the programme. Guineas worm larvae are transmitted to human victims through contaminated water. They grow inside their human hosts and emerge through the skin, creating painful sores. Mr. Carter said the five-year-old programme cost about \$25 million a year. Guinea worm infections decreased to two million this year from 10 when the programme started.

### Bosnian president wins Saudi prize

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia awarded Bosnian Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic the King Faisal International Prize for his services to Islam. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the \$93,333 prize was given Saturday in recognition of Mr. Izetbegovic's "Islamic efforts and in appreciation for his jihad stands." Saudi Arabia has been at the forefront of Muslim countries providing humanitarian and financial aid to Bosnia. Muslims fighting Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Saudi Arabia started granting the King Faisal Prize, worth 350,000 riyals (\$93,333), in 1981 to Islamic scholars and leading scientists. So far, 80 scholars from 26 countries, including nine Americans and nine Britons, have been awarded the prize. Winners, who this year included a French woman scientist, also receive a 22-carat gold medal. This year's winners included Egyptian sociologist Hassan Al Sa'ati and a three-member French team involved in AIDS research named as Luc Montanier, Francoise Sounioni and Sherman Jean-Claude. SPA said the physics award was shared between a German and an American scientist — Herbert Walter of Munich University and Steven Chu of Stanford University, California.

### 7 arrested in UAE for drug smuggling

DUBAI (R) — Six men and a woman have been arrested in the Gulf emirate of Dubai in the past month on drug smuggling charges, a newspaper reported Sunday. Gulf News quoted security sources as saying a British woman with a forged passport had been arrested with four kilogrammes of heroin while transit through Dubai. The British embassy was not available for comment. The English-language daily said the woman told police a Pakistani had given her a bag to carry to Turkey. The daily said a total of 14.17 kilogrammes of heroin and 122 kilogrammes of hashish were confiscated in another five cases involving three Pakistanis, two Tanzanians and a Mauritanian. All suspects were detained at the Dubai police headquarters and will be charged with smuggling and possession of drugs, the daily said. Similar cases in the past carried jail sentences of around 15 years.

### Palestinian kills four over family honour

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A 55-year-old Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip killed four members of his family after rumours spread in his village that they had violated the family's honour, news reports said Sunday. Abdulla Suliman Taabani from the village of Zawaida turned himself in after killing a daughter, son, daughter-in-law and son-in-law Thursday, Arab newspapers said. He told police "he felt good after cleansing the family name," the Arab reports said. The Israeli news agency Itim said he told police that villagers had talked about the four engaging in group sex that involved incest. The reports did not make clear if there was any truth to the rumours. Mr. Taabani tied up his daughter Hanna, 19, son-in-law Mohammad Taabani, 22, and daughter-in-law Ahlam Taabani, 17, and questioned them for several hours before strangling them, the Arab reports said. Later he fatally stabbed his son Akram, 21. In an another crime, a 40-year-old West Bank Arab recently released from a mental institution killed his son and three nephews by throwing them into a well Saturday, Arab papers reported. The man fled from his village near Kalkiliya but was arrested at an Israeli army roadblock, the papers said. The victims were ages 1½ to 5.

### Egypt cuts fees on tourist boats in Suez

ISMAILIA, Egypt (R) — Egypt, trying to revive its tourist industry, has cut fees for cruise ships using the Suez Canal which stop in Egyptian ports. Suez Canal Authority Chairman Muhammad Izzat Adel said, Mr. Adel told Reuters late Saturday the cuts of 35 per cent in passenger boat fees, requested by Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan, would take immediate effect and would be reviewed at the end of May. Only ships which stopped in Egyptian ports would be eligible. Egypt's \$3 billion tourist industry, a vital foreign currency earner, has been devastated in the last six months by attacks by militants fighting to overthrow the government. Officials have estimated losses so far at up to a billion dollars. Hotel managers reported occupancy rates of about 40 per cent in March, down by about 50 per cent on last year. The fee cuts were unlikely to give more than a marginal boost to the industry, which hosted three million tourists last year. Canal sources said 45 passenger ships used the canal in 1992, and 41 ships in 1991.

### MARKET PRICES

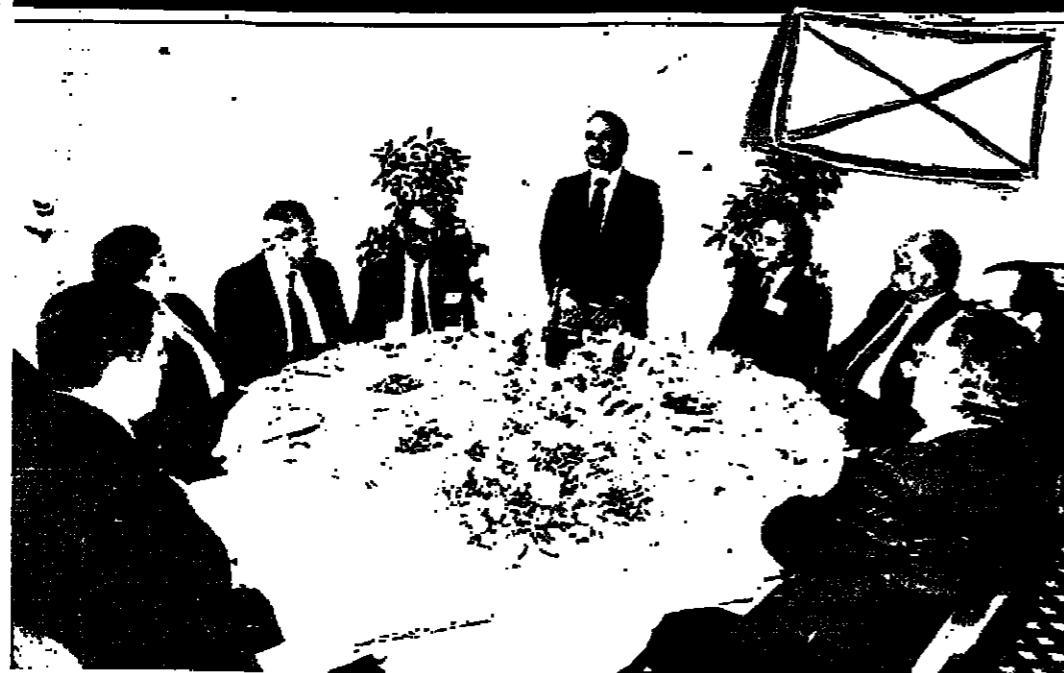
Upper/lower price in fils per kg	Apple	70/70
Banana	60/60	60/60
Banana (Mukhammar)	90/90	90/90
Cabbage	50/50	50/50
Carrot	180/180	180/180
Cauliflower	160/160	160/160
Cucumber (large)	120/120	120/120
Cucumber (small)	100/100	100/100
Eggplant	240/240	240/240
Garlic	400/400	400/400
Grapefruit	240/240	240/240
Lemon	400/300	400/300
Marrow (large)	400/300	400/300
Marrow (small)	200/150	200/150
Mint	100	100
Onion (dry)	320/260	320/260
Onion (green)	280/220	280/220
Orange	700/700	700/700
Pepper (hot)	200/200	200/200
Pepper (sweet)	200/200	200/200
Potato	200/200	200/200
Tomato	250/150	250/150
Spinach	100/50	100/50

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

0715	Beirut (RJ)	0915	Aden (AL)

# Home News



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Sunday hosts a breakfast for members of the Arab Thought Forum (Petra photo)

## Crown Prince urges formation of Arab advanced studies federation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), hosted a breakfast for the participants of the Human Development in the Arab World Seminar organised by the ATF and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP).

The Crown Prince addressed the gathering briefly and discussed with them the progress their seminar has achieved.

Prince Hassan stressed in his address the danger of emphasising Arab particularism over the universality of the shared objectives of those concerning themselves with the "human condi-

tion."

In this context, the Crown Prince referred to the United Nations human condition report, and the importance of a graduated Arab approach in the implementation of the sum total of the report's component parts.

Prince Hassan pointed out the conspicuous absence of an important element in the human condition report when referring to disparities.

He referred in particular to the disparity that exists between Israel and its Arab neighbours and the importance of dealing with that issue despite the fact that the removal of disparity does not

mean the removal of political contradictions.

His Royal Highness also stressed the need for a coherent and focused "Arab message" in the humanitarian work being carried out today.

The Arab voice must become an active part of the universal message.

In his context, Prince Hassan called on the members of the ATF to consider the establishment of an Arab Federation of Institutes of Advanced Studies to bring together the various efforts being carried out throughout the region and focus them on the issues at hand.

## Sharif Zeid reviews labour issues with Arab ministers attending meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday met separately in his office with the ministers of labour of Egypt, Syria, Sudan and Yemen to discuss the outcome of the Arab Labour Conference, due to end Monday, and to review Jordan's cooperation with their countries in labour-related affairs.

Egyptian Minister Asem Abdul Hafiz said that Jordan played an instrumental role in the success of the conference and laying the foundation for the next step in cementing pan-Arab ties.

Ali Khalil, the Syrian minister, expressed hope that the Amman

meeting would open the way for genuine solidarity among Arab states.

In saying that Jordan was attaching great importance to its relations with Syria, Sharif Zeid added that Jordan hoped its endeavours together with those of Syria would serve the higher national interests.

At a meeting with Sudan's Minister of Labour Dominic Casiano, Sharif Zeid said Jordan would pursue its endeavours to serve Arab causes.

The Prime Minister also met Yemen's Minister of Labour Abdul Rahman Dibani and voiced Jordan's total support for Ye-

men's drive towards initiating democracy and achieving socio-economic development.

At Sunday's session, Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Director General Baker Mohammad Rasoul delivered a short address in which he said the wide range of discussions during the meeting, the pan-Arab strategy on employment and other important topics tackled by the delegates would bring forth a new stage of inter-Arab cooperation.

He added that the Arab countries should help the Palestinian working women and corroborate their role in the on-going resistance to Israeli occupation.

## Road accidents are on the rise

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Ministry of Health Advanced Department of Public Health Advancement Mamoun Maatreh Sunday said road accidents account for 3.7 per cent of the total deaths in the Kingdom.

Addressing a symposium on prevention of road accidents on behalf of Health Minister Aref Bataineh, the symposium is held to mark World Health Day.

Dr. Maatreh stressed the importance of public awareness in reducing the number of such accidents and the resulting deaths and injuries.

It is our shared responsibility to curb such accidents, define methods and means of prevention,

and promote awareness and knowledge among citizens," Dr. Maatreh said.

Also addressing the symposium Brigadier Ahmad Al Dumon of the Public Security Department (PSD) said road accidents are on the increase, despite all efforts made by the department to reduce them.

He said the number of car accidents last year totalled 20,970, resulting in 382 deaths and 10,676 injuries.

Dr. Ahmad Barwawi, chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the celebration said accidents and their complications are a major health problem, since they constitute a major reason for

mortality, let alone the partial and permanent disability caused to some victims and the great financial burden it places on the country's economy.

Participants discussed the role of the Ministry of Health in preventing road accidents and occupational diseases.

They also discussed the role of the Civil Defence Department in dealing with injuries caused by road accidents and the use of fire arms.

The symposium is held by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services, Public Security and Civil Defence.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regent visits GHQ, air force

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visited the armed Forces Headquarters and met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai, the chief of staff, for land forces, assistants to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Armed Forces Inspector general. Prince Hassan congratulated Gen. Mirai on his new post, wishing him success in carrying out his new responsibilities. Prince Hassan also discussed with him a number of issues of interest to the Armed Forces. The Crown Prince also visited the Royal Jordanian Air Force headquarters, where he met with the Air Force chief the chief of staff for a while.

### Princess Basma reviews Zarqa health services

ZARQA (Petra) — Princess Basma Sunday visited the Zarqa government hospital where she was briefed by the hospital director, Mamoun Maghaireh, on the services offered to citizens. Dr. Maghaireh said the hospital provides health services to 750,000 citizens. The hospital, he said, includes 260 beds, in addition to 30 beds in the intensive care and dialysis units. Dr. Maghaireh added that the hospital includes 30 specialised clinics covering 15 medical majors. Last year the hospital treated 22,000 patients, and handled 10,000 surgeries, in addition to 7,000 maternity cases, he said. Princess Basma toured the children's and internist wards and the dialysis unit.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Nawaf Al Balkhi at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suba Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Re-creation" by Jordanian, French and Iraqi artists, inspired by a sculpture by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of children's drawings at the British Council.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahiya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Lujaina Al Asad at Baladina Art Gallery.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture "Recent Discoveries on the Citadel Hill"

### Tell Al Hirso" by Dr. Pamela Watson at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7 p.m.

### OPERA

- ★ H9L9 "Budapest Spring Festival" opera concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

### FRENCH FILM WEEK

- ★ French film entitled "Un Dimanche A La Campagne" at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m.

### SEMINAR

- ★ English language seminar for English language teachers about "Writing as a Process: From Guided to Free" at 5:30 p.m. at the British Council.

## UNRWA to levy fees in Jordan

### Agency staff decide to launch action to support demands

By P.V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees said Sunday it would start levying token charges for health services and part of education services it offers to Palestinian refugees in Jordan with effect from July 1.

Dennis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, said the move was aimed at addressing the estimated \$28.5 million deficit in the agency's \$300 million budget with effect from July 1.

Mr. Brown said: "There will not be any reduction of UNRWA services, but there will not be any increases either."

He said the issue was discussed at a recent meeting in Vienna of a UNRWA advisory committee and representatives of countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

The agency, which offers health, education and social services to about 2.6 million Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, will also be levying fees from its beneficiaries in Syria. Those in the occupied territories and Lebanon will not be excluded.

"We hope to raise half of the actual deficit through these fees," Mr. Brown told the Jordan Times. "The commissioner-general (of UNRWA) is hopeful that the other half could be addressed through contributions" from donors, he said.

She and her two colleagues, who work in the Swiss embassy in Cairo, were visiting Jordan on holiday. They were driving near Shobak in a hired car when the gunman tried to flag them down.

They did not stop and the gunman fired. Bernardino Sciolli, the Swiss ambassador to Jordan, said Ms. Amacher was in good condition and would be able to go home in three days. "She is recovering very well," he said.

None of the three women have diplomatic status, he added.

Mr. Sciolli and officials ruled out any political motive for the attack. "It has nothing to do with politics. This (suggestion) is nonsense," the ambassador told Reuters.

## Illiteracy declining, joblessness, poverty increasing — expert

By Lima Nabil  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — A working paper submitted to the second day of the Human Development in the Arab Region Seminar in Amman pointed to the sharp decline in Jordan's illiteracy rate over the last 30 years and noted other significant achievements.

Participants discussed the role of the Ministry of Health in preventing road accidents and occupational diseases.

They also discussed the role of the Civil Defence Department in dealing with injuries caused by road accidents and the use of fire arms.

The symposium is held by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services, Public Security and Civil Defence.

But, the paper noted, that among the current illiterate, females account for double the number of males.

Between 1974 and 1985, the per capita income in Jordan greatly improved but it seriously decreased between 1988 and 1991, the paper continued.

During the same two periods, it said, the Kingdom's population grew by 44 per cent, which meant a decrease in the per capita income rate by 30 per cent.

Noting that from 1992 economic growth surged to 11 per cent in Jordan, Dr. Khatib pointed out that the growth of population followed the increase in the rates of unemployment and the emergence of a large gap between the rich and the poor.

In the last decade, Jordan witnessed the elimination of the so-called middle class, as the rates of poverty increased leaving only a minority enjoying most of the country's wealth, Dr. Khatib maintained.

He also said, the increase in population in recent years was not only a result of fertility but rather because of migrations following developments and conflicts in the region.

Referring to other imbalances, Dr. Khatib said individuals' income vary from one Jordanian governorate to another and between men and women.

Such differences are negative indicators and should be gradually eliminated, Dr. Khatib maintained.

The seminar, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was attended by academics, intellectuals, writers and other scholars from the Arab World.

## Kuwait to back full rights of Arab workers'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federation of Kuwaiti Workers (FKW) will fully support the rights of those who have sustained losses as a result of developments in the Gulf and will help them regain these rights, according to Abdallah Al Baker, chairman of the FKW who is taking part in the Arab Labour Conference in Amman.

The federation, he said, would particularly work towards restoring the rights of those who used to work for Kuwaiti government ministries, organisations and public sector firms.

Reports in the Jordanian press last week quoted several Kuwaiti delegates, including the head of the official delegation to the labour conference, Mohammad Shaban Al Shamer, as saying that their country was committed to granting all previous employees their full rights.

The paper quoted Aqeel Ahmad Jasem, director of the Kuwait Chamber of Industry, as saying that the aim of Kuwait's participation in the Arab Labour Conference was to contribute to the re-establishment of pan-Arab solidarity, and as a goodwill gesture, Kuwait will be ready to grant workers of various nationalities their full rights.

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## Jordan Times

Arab political daily published English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## Records and propaganda

Editorial article a few days ago, a right-wing Israeli paper launched a venomous attack on Jordan and its rights record. The Jerusalem Post attempted to cast doubt on the sincerity of this country in its pursuit of democracy and human rights. Of all reasons, it seized on a reported move by the new French minister of welfare, Simone Veil, not to attend a recent conference on human rights held in Amman under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, allegedly because she discovered at the last minute that Jordan does not allow any person to enter the country with a passport bearing the stamp of Israel.

On the basis of this proposition, the newspaper went to great lengths in demanding Jordan's commitment to democracy and human rights. Whether the Israeli story about Ms. Veil's cancellation of her visit to Jordan is true or not, it cannot and should not bear on the Kingdom's human rights record or commitment to pluralistic democracy against all odds both domestic and external. It has escaped the attention of the editors of the Post, who seem to believe that there is still a state of war between Israel and Jordan and because of this war regime, countries have imposed a string of constraints on all relations between the two states, including the rights between their peoples. It is always hoped that the ongoing peace process comes to fruition, many changes between the two neighbouring countries, perhaps, current legislation banning the entry of nationals with passport bearing the stamp of Israel, an existing impediment, and any similar ones, can be seen as reasonable cause to suspect Jordan's efforts to reintroduce democracy in a meaningful way.

The record straight, Jordan embarked on its path of pluralism and human rights a couple of years before the region ever heard of the Gulf crisis. To Jordan's march towards democracy as a calculated aim to recover its losses in the West in the wake of the Gulf war in 1990-1991 is obviously a serious lie and a serious misrepresentation of history.

It so happens that the U.S. State Department's human rights records of all countries on an annual basis. Had the Post bothered to examine the most up-to-date Department report on human rights, it would have discovered that Jordan, unlike Israel, is mentioned as a human rights violator. If Washington is not sufficient for the Israeli press, then they turn to international reports on the human rights worldwide. Again Jordan's human rights record is unshaken and clear of any reference to serious rights violations. Israel, on the other hand, is the subject of international scrutiny and the object of many nations' reports condemning its human rights not only within the West Bank and Gaza Strip but in Israel proper.

It is that Jordan is deeply and irrevocably committed to parliamentary democracy and human rights. 1989 parliamentary elections, which were held in freedom, the country made great strides to deepen the roots of democracy and plant new seeds for it in the Jordanian life. No one is claiming that we have reached the end of the road and that there is still to be done. On the contrary, there is a great deal to do, but at least we are trying and registering success.

People in Israel are obviously concerned about the propaganda that Israel is the only democratic in the Middle East. For this purpose, newspapers are only too prepared and too eager to say about us. Their attempts can only fail, because the future obviously does not lie with the Likudniks principles.

## RIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

An Arabic daily said Sunday that there was no need for the US to hurry to the peace negotiations with Israel. The holding of the ninth session is not important at this stage. Palestinians are involved in fierce resistance against the forces, what is more important is the continuation and expansion of resistance in the occupied Arab lands, said the Americans and the Israelis are drawing the Arab negotiations which could be futile and result in nothing. The paper, what is of our concern now is not the peace but rather the mobilisation of the Palestinian forces in connection with the Zionist forces in Palestine, the paper said. Such a mobilisation, continued the paper, is bound to increase the Israeli military arsenal and abort American-Zionist axis and alliance. The escalation of violence and the up of resistance is something the Israelis and the Americans never thought would emerge after long years of peace, but it turned out that the intifada has now started to the first chapter of the demise of the Jewish state in the paper pointed out. The paper said that the situation now resembles that which existed during the period when the Americans were anxious to hold negotiations with the Vietnamese to end the conflict and were met with resistance on the ground while the negotiations were held in Paris, said the paper. As the U.S.-Israeli alliance continues towards resuming the peace negotiations in the field, the Arab parties in general and the Jordanian in particular should pursue their concerted efforts to defeat the Israelis on the ground.

## Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

### Shadow of hawkish Likud cautions tactical discretion

THE election of the hawk Benjamin Netanyahu as leader of the Israeli Likud party gives some shivers not only because of his outlandish views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the basis for its resolution but also because of the high probability that the next Israeli general elections could take place much sooner than 1996. Mr. Netanyahu is on record as against any meaningful territorial compromises with Syria on the Golan Heights and totally against any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the grounds that they are part and parcel of "Eretz Israel". Translated into real terms the minute the Likud reassumes power in Israel, the Arab parties in general and the Palestinians in particular might as well kiss the peace process goodbye and start realigning their perspectives with regard to the available means to liberate their territories from Israeli occupation.

If this analysis holds water, then the Arab side, especially the Palestinians, should stop campaigning for the return of the Likud to power by changing the style of their diplomatic and armed efforts during the reign of the incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a bid to decelerate the resurrection of the Likudniks at the expense of the Labourites. This is not to suggest that the Arab side, including the Palestinians, must entertain any false illusions about the sincerity or willingness of Mr. Rabin and his government to withdraw from all the Arab territories on the basis of U.N. Security Council

resolutions 242 and 338. Most probably, Mr. Rabin could be forthcoming and accommodating when it comes to the Golan Heights but not at all reasonable on the occupied Palestinian territories. This is where Syria and Palestine may part company on future strategy be it related to the bilateral peace talks or to any other means that could be contemplated for the liberation of occupied Arab lands.

Damascus obviously has a clearer stake in keeping Mr. Rabin in and Mr. Netanyahu out for the simple fact that the former offers a reasonable degree of mutual accommodation while the latter would mean the end of all thoughts and hopes for a peaceful resolution of the occupation of Syrian territory. For the Palestinians, the difference between the two Israeli political parties is less clear and more nebulous on the key ingredients that are necessary for the settlement of the Palestinian case. Lastly, however, Mr. Rabin has been making some noise about accepting the application of Resolution 242 to the West Bank and Gaza Strip and, in the process, suggesting that territorial compromises over the West Bank and Gaza be at least not ruled out. In so doing, Mr. Rabin appears to be considerably more promising than his Likud rival Netanyahu. Coupled with the fact that the Labour Party has made several moves in the direction of dealing with the PLO head on, there is cause to believe that even for the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict the Labour Party is

substantially more reasonable than the Likudniks when it comes to the ongoing search for a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian question.

Against such a backdrop, the Arab side has a vested interest in changing their diplomatic and armed style against Israel with a view to keeping the Rabin government at the helm and the Likudniks away from the centre of power for as long as necessary. But are the Palestinians doing that or the opposite in the articulation of their positions and implementation of their policies vis-a-vis Israel at this critical time when the peace process is about to resume?

If the widely held view that at best there is no real difference between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu, and at worst, the Labour Party had done more harm to the Arab side than the Likud continues to dominate Arab thinking, then the Arab side could very well end up having what it has bargained for — Mr. Netanyahu or likeminded Israelis at the helm even prior to the 1996 general elections. Should this be the case, there is every sign that the peace process, which is already ailing, will die in no time. This does not mean that the Arab parties should simply accommodate Mr. Rabin and his government on the fundamentals of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Rather, it is a prescription for using discretion wisely and effectively in the pursuit of our primary objectives.

### The Netanyahu paradox

By Haim Baran



Binyamin Netanyahu

**WEST JERUSALEM** — Binyamin ("Bibi") Netanyahu, 43, won the Likud leadership contest overwhelmingly, garnering 52 per cent of the vote, and defeating his arch-enemy David Levy who only got 27 per cent. The other contestants, Benny Begin and Moshe Katzav, managed only negligible support.

This has been the ugliest internal election in Israel's history, involving allegations of sexual blackmail, telephone tappings and even a mysterious videotape purporting to illustrate Netanyahu's infidelities. The Israeli police, dubious private detectives of the worst possible kind and equally obnoxious sides and sidekicks stoked the fire of hatred between the former foreign minister David Levy, and his former deputy Netanyahu. Mr. Levy was described by Mr. Netanyahu on Israeli TV as a "mafia-type senior politician, surrounded by criminals." Mr. Levy fought back courageously, and "Bibi's" allegations are apparently groundless, but nothing could prevent his sensational showing in the elections.

For the first time in Likud's history, the leader was elected by the rank and file members in American-style primaries. Some 142,000 out of 216,000 registered party members actually cast their vote on March 24, and the next day Mr. Netanyahu celebrated his victory at an open air rally, chanting empty slogans and succeeding, as usual, in saying absolutely nothing in a lengthy speech.

Mr. Netanyahu was born in Jerusalem to an extreme-right family, staunch supporters of the Irgun and Menachem Begin. This vivid chauvinism did not prevent the family from emigrating to the U.S. when Bibi was 14. He returned at 18 to serve in the army, following his legendary older brother's footsteps. Yoni Netanyahu was killed during the hostage rescue operation at Entebbe in 1976. Bibi served in his brother's elite commando unit. He returned to the U.S. to complete his masters degree at MIT in Boston, befriended by the Likud ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arens. When Mr. Yitzhak Shamir formed a right-wing government in 1990, Mr. Netanyahu became Mr. Levy's

deputy at the foreign ministry. Mr. Levy, who does not speak English, detested Bibi, and forced him to flee to the prime minister's office in 1991, after boycotting the Madrid peace conference because Mr. Shamir and Mr. Arens insisted on giving Mr. Netanyahu, their protege, a leading role in putting the Israeli case to the international media.

The victorious Netanyahu is far from being secure in his official title as Likud chairman. Mr. Levy, whose 27 per cent support came mainly from the Likud strongholds in the development towns and poor neighbourhoods, has announced his refusal to accept the verdict, and snubbed the new leader vociferously and publicly. The police probe, due to end on April 2, may prove to be a new Pandora's box, and Mr. Levy is likely to give vent to his deeply embedded feelings that the Likud election was twisted and distorted by Mr. Netanyahu's allegations against him.

The energetic new leader tried to ignore these internal obstacles, and managed to work out a truce between himself and Mr. Levy's influential brother, Maxim, the mayor of Lod and a leading figure among young social politicians.

He also summoned, on March 29, the leaders of the extreme-right parties, Moledet and Tzomet, and the National Religious Party, in order to reorganise the opposition against Mr. Rabin's government, after nine months of virtual paralysis.

Mr. Netanyahu is very wary,

not only of Mr. Levy. He knows that Ariel Sharon, who wisely avoided the leadership contest, is lurking behind him, waiting for his first serious blunder. Mr. Levy, Mr. Sharon and Mr. Benny Begin, who despise each other, now have a common vested interest in tripping up the new leader. They will aim at undermining him and to force new primaries before the next general election in 1996.

#### Hardest of hardliners

Mr. Netanyahu, on the other hand, harbours a completely different scheme. He hopes to bring down the Rabin government over the issue of internal security, and to lead his party to an early election victory. The latest series of shootings and bombings in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip during March constitutes, ironically, good tidings for a demagogue like Mr. Netanyahu who promises to stamp out terrorism without any territorial concessions to the Arab countries and the Palestinians, which sounds just like Mr. Sharon.

Mr. Netanyahu, the sweet "reasonable" pose on the TV screens notwithstanding, is by far the most radical expansionist and Arab basher in Likud. He supports the death penalty for Palestinian guerrillas, and seeks every opportunity to subvert the Camp David accords. He was enthusiastically supported by the best known extremists in the Israeli political arena, including

Guela Cohen and her anti-Camp David son, Tzahi Hanegbi, a Likud MK and Netanyahu aide-de-camp.

Hence the amazing paradox. Of the three principle contenders for Likud's leadership (Mr. Katzav was an also-ran), Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Benny Begin were the most committed to the cause of Greater Israel, and oppose any territorial concessions whatsoever. Mr. Levy is reputed to support an agreement with the Syrians on the Golan and Camp David style self-rule for the Palestinians. On human rights, Mr. Begin opposed to the death penalty and mass deportations, and he once portrayed the inclusion of the Meoded party in Mr. Shamir's coalition as an "abomination" (1990). Mr. Levy is normally silent on such issues, in order to mollify his usually hot-headed constituency.

Mr. Netanyahu comes out worst on both issues. He is openly militarist, expansionist, and very harsh as far as human rights are concerned. He has the mentality and bearing of a right-wing senator from Alabama: contemptuous of the Third World, believing that "terrorism" can be eradicated only by brute force, refusing to recognise the connection between oppression and uprising, nationalist to the core, a profound admirer of the apartheid regime in South Africa, a strong supporter of Israel's alleged nuclear deterrent.

But Mr. Netanyahu, whose policies, pronouncements and beliefs are the furthest from the official position of Washington, was elected because the mainstream Likud supporters feel that he can "explain" his anti-peace platform to the Clinton administration and the American people! His heavily accented American English, and his general air of a middle class U.S. politician from TV soap operas, endeared him to the Likud electorate. Since the principal ambition of the average Likud voter is to humiliate the Arabs without losing even the tiniest bit of American aid. Mr. Netanyahu was conceived as the ideal choice.

#### And a new president

Liberal observers, duly dismayed by Mr. Netanyahu's election to the chairmanship of Israel's largest party, drew some comfort from the success of the Labour Party's candidate, Ezer Weizman, who was elected by the Knesset to be the seventh president of Israel on March 24. Mr. Weizman, ex-RAF pilot and Likud hawk who switched to the dovish wing of Labour, is very popular among senior Egyptian leaders and seeks an accommodation with the PLO. But despite his reputation as a maverick, his role as president is strictly limited to ceremonial functions. He may, hopefully, like Mr. Rabin occasionally but his principal function is likely to be confined to generating ripples of his undoubtedly charm. A cruel society, with Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu as principal leaders, and the lovable but powerless Weizman to sweeten the bitter pill — Middle East International.

### Some experts question whether sanctions work

By Arthur Allen  
The Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS** — From its carpeted chambers on the East River in Manhattan, the U.N. Security Council has upended millions of lives in the past two years with edict upon edict intended to punish pariah states.

Washington has led the way as the council used economic sanctions on Yugoslavia, Iraq, Iran, Libya, among others.

U.S. officials now are weighing sanctions against North Korea for its refusal to permit inspections that might reveal a nuclear weapons programme.

But rather than hitting the seats of power, the blows sometimes land on the heads of the humble: In Port-au-Prince, Belgrade and Baghdad, the wages of sinful governments are paid by citizens struggling to keep fed, clothed and healthy amid growing shortages and soaring inflation.

The major goals of the sanctions — the ouster of Saddam Hussein, peace in Bosnia, the return of an elected Haitian president — have not been achieved. In fact, sanctions may have bolstered the regimes in Iraq and Serbia.

Some specialists in international relations question whether the Security Council, no longer hindered by superpower confrontation, has administered its tough judgments without thinking deeply enough about their effects.

Others, such as John Chipman, a scholar at the International Institute for Strategic Affairs in London, believe sanctions are worthwhile and necessary despite their unintended victims.

Expecting sanctions to topple tyrants is "too tough a standard," Mr. Chipman said. In his view, it is enough that they build international consensus against tyrannical regimes.

Economic sanctions are never

inevitably successful. Fidel Castro's Cuba has persevered for decades under a strict U.S. trade embargo, even managing to hang on after losing its allies in the former Soviet bloc.

The tight embargo on Iraq has caused malnutrition and the spread of disease among the people, who have no say about whether Saddam Hussein complies with U.N. resolutions passed

after the Gulf war in 1991. Enough supplies get through to keep the economy afloat, however, and Saddam Hussein's inner circle has found ways of obtaining luxury goods from Jordan, Turkey and Syria.

Saddam Hussein seems strong enough to remain in power, but U.N. monitoring of his weapons programmes makes him less of a threat to his neighbours, said

work, why does the U.S. government continue to pursue them?

"There's a frustration, a sense that you must do something," Mr. Binnendijk said. "Economic sanctions are a tool that is easy to reach for. There's hope that, through combinations of politics and magic, it might work."

And there is always the hope that the end will justify the means.

Mr. Chipman noted that the U.S.-imposed trade and investment embargo of South Africa in 1985 led to widespread layoffs of black workers but also contributed to the white government's decision to begin dismantling apartheid.

The black workers suffered the most, but it was they who stood up and said, "we think it's a bloody good idea," he said in a telephone interview.

Some of Mr. Chipman's specialist colleagues consider South Africa a misleading example.

While the government of 1985 was no democracy, it was accountable to the white, voting population, they point out. Many whites opposed apartheid either for moral reasons or because they saw it leading the country to ruin.

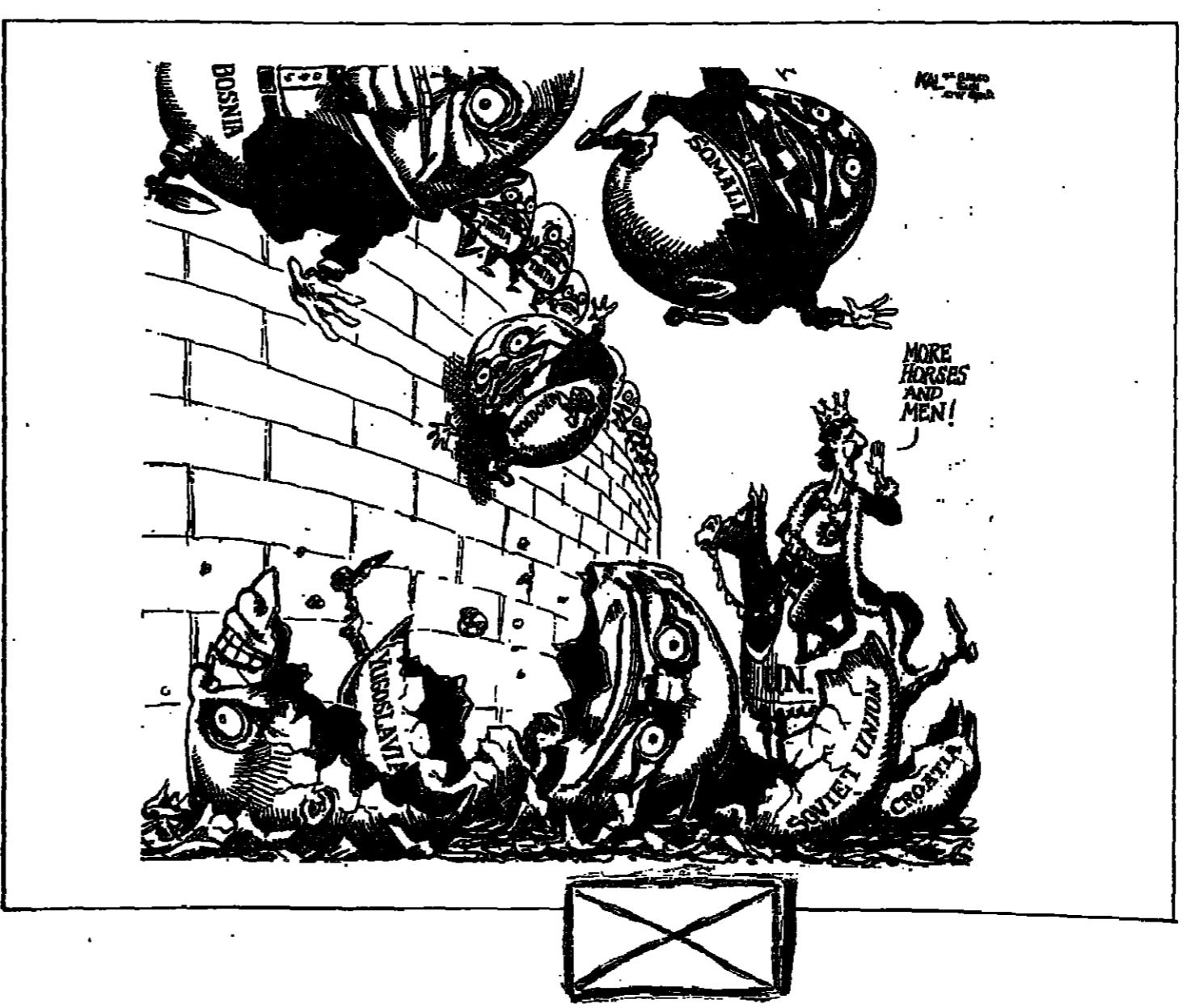
No such accountability exists in, for example, Iraq and Cuba. There, the governments use suffering to drum up hatred for foreigners.

Even dissidents oppose the 30-year-old U.S. economic embargo of Cuba, according to a report in March by the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Referring to a decision of the U.S. Congress in November to tighten the embargo, the report called economic sanctions "the surest way of prolonging" human rights abuses on the island. Historically, economic sanctions have seldom worked, said Gary Hufbauer of the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Freezing Panama's bank assets did not drive out President Manuel Noriega, he said, nor did China ease its human rights policies in response to sanctions imposed after the June 1989 massacre of protesters in Tiananmen Square. To oust Mr. Noriega, the United States finally invaded Panama in 1989.

"We haven't found the magic trick in moderating foreign governments," Mr. Hufbauer said.



## Israel extends siege of occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

view," Mr. Sarid said after the six-hour session.

But Mr. Rubinstein, also from Meretz, said the closure was needed to ensure security and progress in peace talks. In March, 13 Israelis were killed by Palestinians, several of them labourers, and the public outcry for a crackdown threatened to undermine support for the negotiations.

The closure has been in effect for two weeks in Gaza and a week and a half in the West Bank.

It prevented the 65,000 Christians in the occupied territories, a third of whom are Catholics, from reaching Jerusalem for Easter.

Israeli troops also raided Nusseirat refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, rounding up all the men and rocketing a house, Palestinians said. Troops shot and wounded five Palestinians.

## Pilgrims celebrate Easter

(Continued from page 1)

closure has prevented them from being together for the holiday," said Marwan Tubasi, president of the executive committee of the Greek Orthodox community.

The road connecting the northern and southern halves of the West Bank runs through Jerusalem.

Vatican City, Pope John Paul II greeted 50,000 faithful on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica on Easter Sunday saying the season of Christian Joy was tempered for him by wars in the former Yugoslavia and Soviet Union.

"How can you be silent today — a day of peace — in the face of fratricidal struggle that bleeds the Caucasus region, in the face of the atrocious drama which is being played out implacably in Bosnia-Herzegovina?" the Pope asked.

After two years of repeated

nians in the strip.

Israel lifted three-day curfew on Khan Younis town in the Gaza Strip Sunday after raids ended. Palestinians reported dozens of arrests.

Palestinians said troops clamped a curfew on Nusseirat before the pre-dawn raid for Palestinian activists on Sunday. The raid continued throughout the day with troops rounding up all men aged 15 to 60.

Palestinians said soldiers destroyed a house with rockets and shot and seriously wounded destroyed a house with rockets and shot and seriously wounded Mohammad Dokhan, 21.

Military officials said Dokhan was shot when he fled from troops while carrying a Kalashnikov automatic rifle. Dokhan was wanted for attacking soldiers.

Israeli troops sometimes fire rockets at houses where they say suspect wanted men are hiding in them.

## Clinton said to scale down Bush plan

(Continued from page 1)

appointed that the Clinton administration had failed to respond to its offer of a fresh start in relations.

Front-page editorials in Baghdad dailies expressed dismay at Friday's U.S. bombing of a military position in the north of the country. They said it proved Mr. Clinton had not learned from the mistakes of Mr. Bush.

"We have seen many irresponsible deeds by the new U.S. administration which confirm that it has not yet learned from past lessons and is willing to repeat the same ridiculous refrain that has proved unsuccessful with Iraq," the government daily Al Jumhuriyah said.

"Clinton's administration has still been following the footsteps of Bush and his administration's mistakes, resorting to the same means to harm the Iraqi people," the ruling Baath Party's daily Al Thawra said.

Recent remarks by Clinton and (Secretary of State Warren) Christopher along with the latest provocative air attack by allied warplanes all embody the fact

that U.S. officials do not want to understand Iraq's standpoint and its genuine wish to establish new ties with the U.S. based on mutual respect and understanding and by solving all problems through peaceful means," Al Thawra added.

But Iraq has stood by its ceasefire offer made when the Clinton administration took office in January "but U.S. officials have expressed on more than one occasion their adoption of a deplorable colonial policy which expresses nothing other than arrogance, power and enmity to all that is humane and legitimate."

"But Iraq shall still hold to its principles and its leader unaffected by a few cluster bombs or thermal flares nor even by the ridiculous statements of this or that U.S. official," Al Thawra pledged.

Al Qadissiya newspaper complained, "The American position contradicts its slogans about peace and human rights."

Mr. Clinton has echoed Mr. Bush in saying that the United States will not tolerate any interference with Western jets patrolling the "no-fly" zones in Iraq.

## Pakistan holds militants linked to Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) in Cairo to plant bombs in tourist sites.

A British tourist was killed and two Britons and five Germans were wounded in gun and bomb assaults by militants last year.

The Islamic Group recently sent a fax from a post office in Peshawar to Cairo warning of further attacks.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed last week to enact measures to stop Egyptian militants using Pakistan's border province with Afghanistan as a base.

The officer identified two of the four suspects as Abdul Rahim Abu Akrab, the nephew of a member of Egypt's parliament, and school teacher Mahmoud Al Solayim. Both of Egypt's parliament, and school teacher Mahmoud Al Solayim. Both are members of Al Gamma Al Islamiya.

The officer said that the suspects were avenging the killing by police last month of another extremist in Abu Tig.

An man planted a bomb on a bus loaded with German tourists outside Cairo's citadel Sunday, security sources said.

The guide for the German party raised the alarm after spotting the man put a bag under one of the front seats near the door of the bus as the tourists sat inside.

Police arrested the man and found a small bomb in the bag.

One security source said the man was suspected to belong to Al Gamaa.

### Police officer killed

Four suspected muslim extremists on Sunday shot dead a senior police officer and two others in southern Egypt in revenge for the killing of a fellow militant, police said.

As police searched for the four suspects, a curfew was clamped on the three areas of Al Badary, Al Ghanyam and Sadafa, near the southern town of Assuit where the shooting occurred.

Assuit, a hotbed of Muslim extremist violence, is 320

## Mubarak, Rabin to meet on Wednesday

(Continued from page 1)

Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, to which most of the exiles belong.

The fundamentalist groups oppose the peace talks with the Israelis which started in 1991.

Dr. Rantisi insisted that the Palestinian delegation to the talks does not represent the expellees or the people of the West Bank and Gaza.

"We did not and will not entrust the Palestinian delegation to speak for us," Dr. Rantisi told reporters.

The issue of our deportation has been coordinated with the Palestinian delegation and what is happening now is a production of the scenario that was prepared before the expulsion," Dr. Rantisi said without elaboration.

"We are aware that Husseini is

playing a major role in this scenario," he added.

Mr. Husseini may emerge as the officially recognised leader of the Palestinian negotiators when the talks resume under a compromise worked out by the United States, according to American and Israeli media reports.

In effect, he already is the leader of the Palestinian team,

but he has not been allowed to sit at the negotiating table because Israel rejected the participation of Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem.

Asked if he will head the Palestinian team at the April 20 talks, Mr. Husseini said Sunday: "The issue was raised ... but it is up to the Palestinian leadership to decide."

ters still needed clarification.

And Israeli Health Minister Haim Ramon said Mr. Husseini's presence could lend the Palestinian team more authority.

"If Faisal Husseini is included then we will be able to progress on substance," Mr. Ramon said.

## Rantisi says expulsion was engineered

(Continued from page 1)

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# Sports

## Senna wins European Grand Prix

DONINGTON, England (Agencies) — Ayrton Senna charged from fifth to first on the opening lap to power to victory in the European Grand Prix Sunday, his second Formula One victory in a row.

The three-time former world champion got the wet conditions he wanted and almost lapped the rest of the field in his McLaren Ford.

Only second place Damon Hill, in a Williams Renault, stayed on the same lap as Senna but he came home 1 minute 23.199 seconds behind.

Senna, who also won in Brazil two weeks ago, now leads the Drivers' Championship by 12 points from Alain Prost. The Brazilian has 26 points and the

Frenchman, who finished third here in Williams Renault, has 14 with Hill on 12.

Britain's Johnny Herbert was fourth in Sunday's race in a Lotus Ford, veteran Riccardo Patrese fifth in a Benetton Ford and Fabrizio Barbazza sixth in a Minardi Ford for his first ever World Championship point.

Michael Andretti's tale of woe in Formula One continued.

Watched by father Mario, who

won the title in 1978 before switching to Indy cars, Andretti spun off the circuit in the first lap.

Toyotas coast towards victory in Safari Rally: Finn Juha Kankkunen and the Toyota Team coasted towards almost certain victory in the Kenya Safari Rally as drivers contested the fourth leg

Sunday.

Kankkunen was speaking in Eldoret, 350 kms north-west of Nairobi, where he arrived nine minutes ahead of fellow Finn Markku Alen in another Toyota Celica 4wd.

Kenyan Ian Duncan was third, one hour 25 minutes behind the Kankkunen, and Yasuhiro Iwase of Japan was fourth, one hour 32 minutes behind the leader. Both were driving Toyotas.

Alen said he did not think he could catch up with Kankkunen.

"Every time we get a little bit closer to Juha we get in his dust and then have to slow up again, so it's not possible to make up very much on him in any section," he said.

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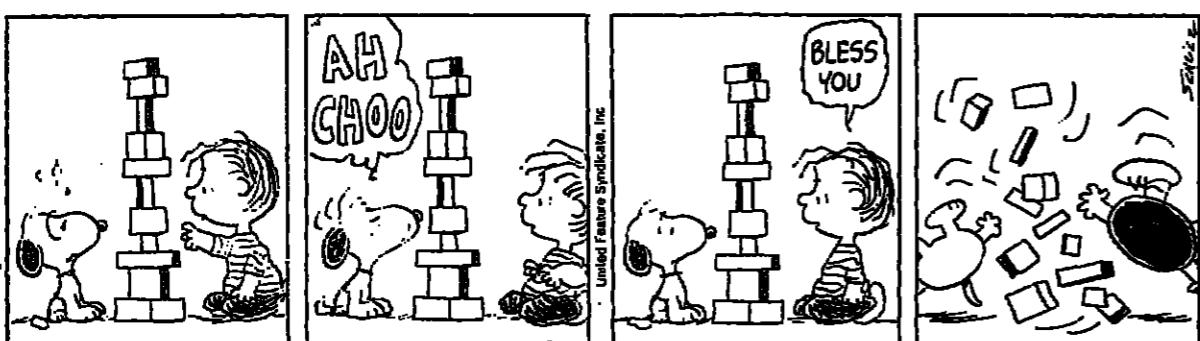
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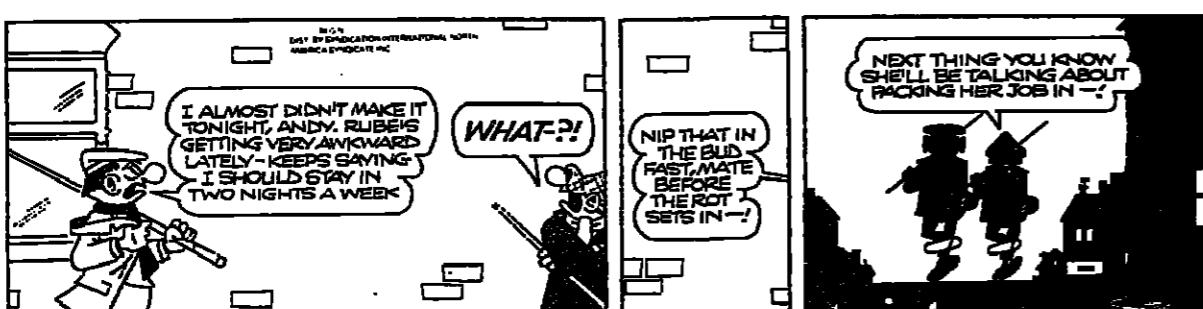
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## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



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## Jordan's rally champion has ambitious plans for 1993

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's 1992 Drivers Open Championship titleholder, Marwan Abu Hamad, has ambitious plans for the upcoming season which will surely be quite eventful and hectic.

Their first test of the car was in the National Rally April 1 in which they finished second.

Asked if they had faced problems with the car during the rally, Abu Hamad said: "The rally was a trial for us and the new car. We had very little time to train as it arrived only a few days before the event."

"The only problem is that the car uses unleaded fuel which is not available in Jordan. We might have to import this from the Gulf in the future," Abu Hamad added.

Abu Hamad also said that he was quite careful in the 350-kilometre rally and had not taken any extra risks as he had been quite upset after visiting colleague Reimon Fleifel in hospital after he had an accident while training for the rally.

At a press conference Saturday evening, team director Samer Al Qadi representing the sponsor, the Arab Jordan Investment Bank, said that the team had the bank's full support and voiced hope that Abu Hamad and Zakaria would have a successful season.

"We are very optimistic that Marwan (Abu Hamad) and Khaled (Zakaria) will maintain their top rank standing in Jordan's championship and hopefully attain an advanced standing in the Middle East Championship," said Qadi.

The new car was used by Middle East champion Mohammad Ben Sallayem in

four rounds of the Middle East Championship. Both Abu Hamad and co-driver Zakaria, who is 1992's Co-Drivers Open titleholder, regard this as a good omen.

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Abu Hamad and Zakaria praised the organisation of the Jordan International Rally and other local events organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, which has given a strong impetus to auto sports in the Kingdom. However they stressed the fact that the sport lacked proper promotion by all concerned and hence the lack of sponsors.

Abu Hamad, 28, a graduate in criminology from the United States, said that financial snags which hinder participation in regional or local rallies had been solved by their sponsor.



Marwan Abu Hamad

He urged other institutions to back sports in the country.

"Rallies are costly. And a rally team comprises about eight people. Therefore, it would be difficult to pay for air-fare, accommodation, and maintenance without proper sponsorship," Abu Hamad commented.

Asked about their team, both competitors had words of encouragement, support and praise for each other.

"I think Khaled is one of the best co-drivers. We understand each other very well. He has never made a silly mistake or error," Abu Hamad said of his co-driver.

"I think Marwan is an excellent driver. He is experienced, and I believe we are a very cohesive team," added Zakaria.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 12, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A very difficult day that will have you redoing recent programmes that you thought had been put to rest. Avoid any possibility of getting financially entangled in the affairs of another who requests your assistance, but has no right to do so.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Until noon you can contact those able to help forward your interests and to make real headway but later avoid running around like a chick-a without its head.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)

You want to make some drastic changes in financial or other practical matters and the daytime could be a good time to do so but later be content with experts.

**SAGITTARIUS:**

(November 22 to December 21) You have a flash vision on how some logical minded person can be of remarkable assistance to you so early contact that person and gain progress.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A day to think of ways to build up your activities so you get far more benefits from them and then do the apparently unimportant details.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Your love of people can be brought into the open to your advantage in the early part of the day so be on the qui vive, accept and use it well.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A member of your family has quite different ideas and plans for the future than yours but listen to them and try to make them harmonise together.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

**Today is no different from any other day, so who cares?**

"Stanley, what kind of mood were you in when you bought that calendar?"

## Sampras powers his way to Japan Open victory

TOKYO (Agencies) — Pete Sampras trounced fellow American Brad Gilbert 6-2 6-2 6-2 to win the Japan Open tennis tournament Sunday.

The new world No. 1 produced a powerful all-round game to collect his third title of the year and a cheque for \$152,000.

The 21-year-old from Tampa, Florida, shot to the top of the ATP rankings after his quarter-final win over David Wheaton and Jim Courier's exit in the third round.

Sampras said he was undaunted by the pressure of being world number one.

"Ever since I won the U.S. Open and I've been in the top five, I've been more or less a target," he said.

"But I've got used to that extra pressure ... so I don't feel any different on the court now I'm number one."

"You know, it's pretty simple. I just go out there and try to win. That's it."

Gilbert said Sampras' heavy serving had been a key factor in

the result.

"I'd like to go to sleep at night knowing I've got that serve," he said.

"Pete's got a complete game and when he's playing well he has the ability to demoralise you. A tough customer to play, who's going to be a major threat to winning the U.S. Open."

The Sanchez Vicario face Sabatini in final: Top seeds Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini earned their 18th meeting and the final of the \$375,000 Badalona Lomb Tennis Championships with semifinal wins Saturday.

Sanchez Vicario, seeded first and ranked third in the world, reached her fourth successive final with a 6-4 6-2 victory over fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere of Switzerland.

The second-seeded, fifth-ranked Sabatini, the two-time defending champion here, earned her first final of 1993 with a 6-3 6-2 win over fifth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa.

In career meetings, Sabatini has a comfortable 11-6 lead over Sanchez Vicario but the Spaniard won their last three confrontations.

"I know I've played many times against Gaby," said Sanchez Vicario, who successfully defended her Lipton Championships title last month. "I'm in good shape and I'm ready to beat her again."

Maleeva-Fagniere had a busy day Saturday.

Before taking on Sanchez Vicario, she defeated sixth seed Natalia Zvereva of Belarus 6-0 6-3 in a quarter-final postponed

Friday because of rain.

Sabatini has been in a title drought. The winner of 25 singles titles, the Argentine has played in 14 events since the 1992 Italian Open last May without a championship.

In seven tournaments in 1993, she has been stopped in the semi-finals five times — twice by Steffi Graf and once each by Jennifer Capriati, Monica Seles and Conchita Martinez.

"I needed a win like this one today to help me beat a top player and win a tournament," said Sabatini, who has a 4-1 career advantage over Coetzer. Medvedev beats Bruguera in Barcelona final: Eighteen-year-old Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine beat Spain's Sergi Bruguera in four sets Sunday to win the singles final of the \$875,000 Trofeo Conde de Godo ATP men's tennis tournament.

After losing the opening set 6-7 (7-9), Medvedev pulled back with energy to sweep the following three sets 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

It was Medvedev's fifth title and his second this year following his victory in Estoril, Portugal, two weeks ago.

Ranked 19th in the world and seeded ninth in the tournament, Medvedev is considered one of the top clay-court players on the circuit.

As the tournament's singles winner, he earned \$126,000.

It was Bruguera's second loss in a Conde de Godo final. In 1991 he lost to fellow Spaniard Emilio Sanchez.

Medvedev made it to the final on beating and American veteran Ivan Lendl in the quarterfinal.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

LAWRD

SWYNE

PARULL

COBNEK

WHAT THE CHEF GOT WHEN HE REFUSED TO SERVE FRESH VEGETABLES.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise word, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow.)

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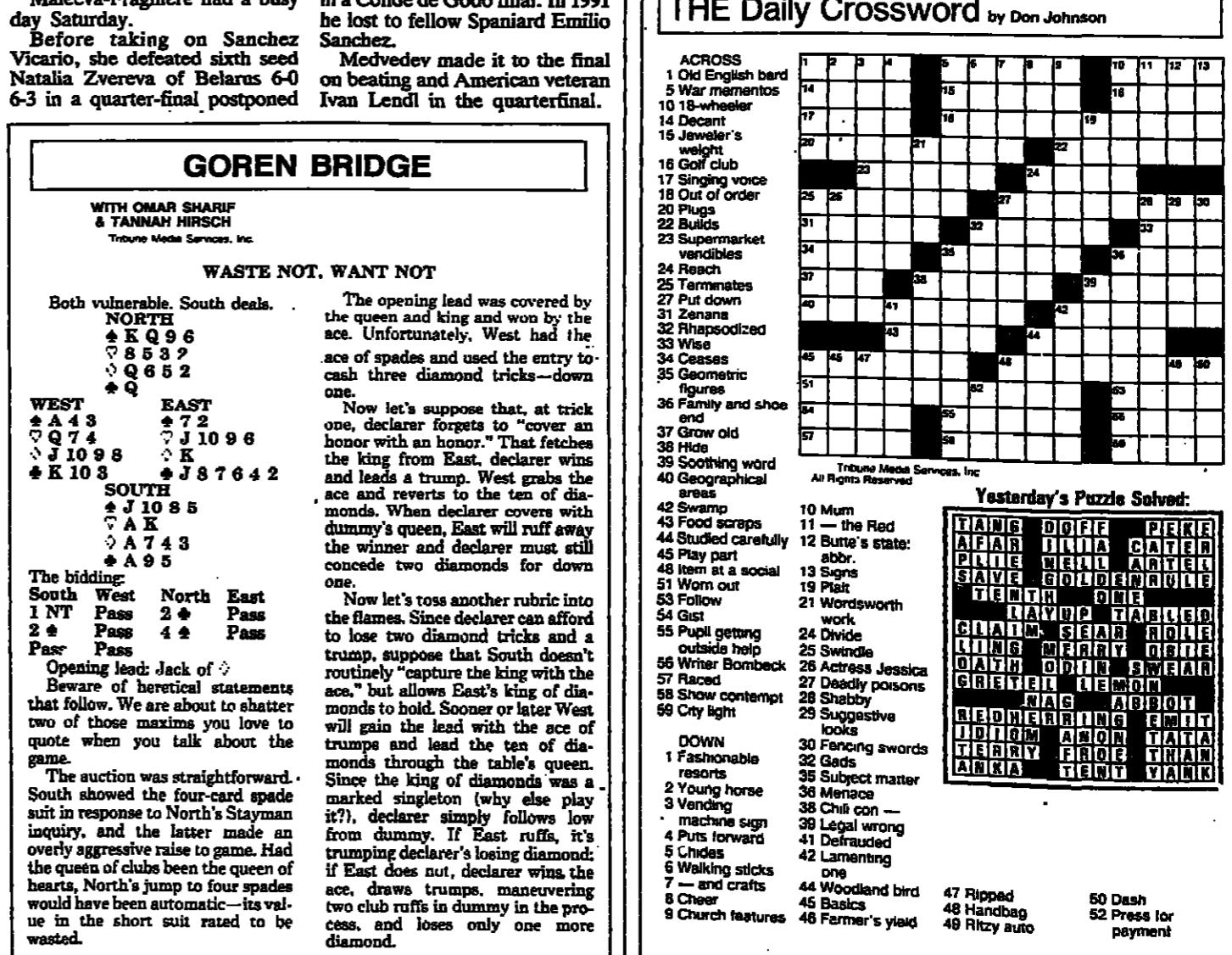
66 ○○○○○○○○○○

Yesterday's Jumble: PECAN UNCAP TOTTER CAJOLE

Answer: What an off-color story might make some people do—TURN PALE

## THE Daily Crossword

by Don Johnson



# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1993 7

refugees at a camp with some shops, injured by the incident. Iraqi border, in Kuwait. The southern Iraqis said imposed a curfew program.

(UAE) and a programme that the gamma-1 Abu Dhabi Saeem dollars and India, Pakistan, are attempting to the card. Agency said it had donated state of George. They grow made, trading painful cost about \$25 million two million the.

udi prize man Muslim Press International (UPI) said the Mr. Leege, al-ahad stands in countries prove Muslims fighting started growing 1981 to 1982 scholars have included a old media. The issue Al-Sarai is research name German Jean-Louis a German Munich University.

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mily honor 5-year-old Pak- members of his be- he had voted. Abdullah Se- himself in after- law. Thundi- well after clean each news item about the four- could not make. Luban bed- Luban. It questioned the talk reports cal- at another ac- cused from a b- by throwing the he man did not an hour. average 15%

rats in Suez to review its suc- tive chairman. He late Saturday is expected to be effect and was stopped in for country's industr- the last year. Now the govern- to a billion dol- lar budget. The fed- eral budget for the in- dustry and shippi-

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER		ARM - SICURITI		TRADING BANK CENTER					
ORGANIZED MARKET DRAA PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 11/04/1993									
<b>CURRENT'S DRAA</b>									
	TRADING PREV. VALUE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE						
RAHIL BANK	20,750	132,500	132,500	132,500					
INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK	17,940	3,910	3,900	3,900					
THE PESTICIDE BANK	1,377	3,710	3,710	3,710					
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	1,270	2,420	2,420	2,420					
AKAS JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2,270	2,250	2,250	2,250					
JORDAN INSTITUTE BANK	2,219	4,110	4,120	4,120					
UNIVERSITY SAVING & INVESTMENT	1,111	3,500	3,500	3,500					
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	15,700	6,340	6,360	6,360					
HILF KUWAIT SAVING & INVESTMENT BANK	10,680	5,400	5,370	5,360					
ARMAN BANK	20,100	3,700	3,700	3,700					
ARMAN MANUFACTURE & INVESTMENT JORDAN	2,700	3,420	3,420	3,420					
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	31,372	1,650	1,650	1,650					
ARMAN BANK	14,210	4,110	4,110	4,120					
ARMAN SEAS INSURANCE	60,288	2,270	2,260	2,260					
JORDAN PETROCHEMICALS	1,250	2,110	2,110	2,110					
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2,240	2,250	2,250	2,250					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9,800	5,600	5,600	5,600					
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	31	5,570	5,620	5,620					
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	51,250	2,110	2,110	2,110					
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	34,478	1,710	1,720	1,720					
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	32,070	8,000	8,040	8,040					
PARTICIPATION INVESTMENT & MANAGEMENT UNITED HOLDING KARF & COMPANY HOTEL	9,480	1,440	1,440	1,440					
ATTALYOUN CLAY & MATERIAL MANUFACTURING LTD	1,195	1,980	1,980	1,980					
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	4,833	1,870	1,870	1,870					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	22,500	10,300	10,300	10,350					
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	2,510	2,630	2,610	2,610					
JORDAN PETROLEUM & AGRICULTURAL	6,520	5,620	5,620	5,620					
JORDAN MARBLE MILLS	7,676	6,750	6,720	6,720					
JORDAN PETROLEUM MANUFACTURES	12,100	2,110	2,110	2,110					
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,988	2,340	2,340	2,340					
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	51,475	22,550	21,750	21,750					
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	7,440	3,730	3,730	3,730					
PAPUA INDUSTRIES	14,278	2,730	2,730	2,730					
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	3,248	0,730	0,720	0,720					
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	21,027	12,750	12,750	12,650					
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES & INVESTMENTS	34,357	13,550	13,550	13,550					
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	11,785	0,530	0,530	0,530					
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	6,510	0,530	0,520	0,520					
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL CORPORATION	11,280	0,530	0,530	0,530					
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL CORPORATION	938	0,930	0,930	0,940					
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	11,785	4,210	4,200	4,200					
INTERMEDIATE METRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11,785	4,210	4,200	4,200					
INTERMEDIATE METRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11,785	4,210	4,200	4,200					
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	4,230	14,150	14,150	14,150					
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES	27,489	4,420	4,420	4,420					
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES	15,250	4,420	4,420	4,420					
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	37,722	0,620	0,620	0,620					
JORDAN WOOL INDUSTRY / J.W.I.D	7,290	4,220	4,200	4,200					
JORDAN WOOL INDUSTRY / J.W.I.D	68,677	4,580	4,560	4,520					
JORDAN SULFO-CHEMICALS	22,910	4,310	4,280	4,260					
JORDAN SULFO-CHEMICALS	22,910	4,310	4,280	4,260					
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	21,353	5,370	5,340	5,340					
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>									
1,338,820									
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET									
36400									
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET									
1 JD 61252									

## Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (April 5 — April 9, 1993)

AMMAN — In addition to the general atmosphere of lack of direction which has been already prevalent in the foreign exchange market, trading activity declined considerably last week ahead of the long Easter weekend. Nevertheless, the dollar succeeded in rising above resistance at 1.60 marks, whereas the intensity of the dollar's decline against the Japanese unit also declined.

Trading was light and choppy throughout most of last week, with a general feeling of lack of short-term direction. Many traders preferred to stay on the side-lines, particularly with the long weekend that lay ahead. On the one hand, there was disappointment with the pace at which the interest rate differential between Germany and the U.S. was narrowing, and in the rate of growth in U.S. GDP as well as the extent of the fiscal stimulus, on the other. But traders were also reluctant to sell the U.S. currency, since indications still pointed to a superior U.S. economic performance in the medium and long term, in comparison with other industrialised countries.

On Monday, the Bundesbank president was quoted as saying that the bank will not perform quick drastic cuts in the official German interest rates so as not to harm the credibility of the German monetary policy. The news harmed the dollar, given the absence of other indications.

Furthermore, the latest rounds of U.S. economic statistics had come within, or even below, expectations, thus illuminating any justification for a dollar hike for the time being.

The Bank of Japan, on the other hand, managed finally to curb the intensity of the dollar's decline against the yen, after persistent, but not-so-aggressive, intervention on Monday and Tuesday. In the process, the dollar benefited against the mark as well.

In Germany, a new batch of economic statistics produced further evidence that economic growth in west Germany was sliding. The news revived hopes of a near term interest rate cut in Germany. The dollar hence rebounded Tuesday, breaching 1.60 marks and closing in New York at 1.6109 marks.

The dollar continued to rise Wednesday, touching 1.62 marks during U.S. trading hours, but retreating to 1.6189 marks at the time of New York's close, its highest levels for that week. It eased back towards the end of the week, closing in New York Thursday at 1.6050 marks, and at 1.6060 marks in Tokyo the following day. Observers noted, however, that the thin trading volume had a significant impact on the way the exchange rate fluctuated.

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\* Per 100

## \$40m fund set up for investment in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Two financial groups, backed by the World Bank, have set up a \$40 million fund to attract Western institutional investment to Egypt.

Barclays PLC, Schroder Asseley Co. and the World Bank's investment arm, the International Finance Corporation, will each take a 15 per cent stake, banking sources said Sunday.

The fund is called International Egyptian Investments (IEI) and is incorporated in the British Virgin Islands.

The firm, registered last month, was aiming to subscribe a total of \$40 million, said a source close to IEI.

He told Reuters he hoped to attract Gulf Arab and Far Eastern as well as European and American investors.

"We're not looking at brand new projects but existing companies with established management that want to boost their capital," he said.

The source said the fund would seek long-term stakes in private Egyptian firms but would not buy

shares on the stock market. Over 600 firms are listed on Cairo's exchange but only 25 are actively traded.

"Egypt is not yet a stage to invest in stocks and play the market," said the source, who added that IEI aimed to place the other 55 per cent, about \$20 million, with Western institutional investors by August.

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"We're not looking at brand new projects but existing companies with established management that want to boost their capital," he said.

The source said the fund would seek long-term stakes in private

industrial, agro-industry, tourism and financial services sectors.

So a cut in the notional ceiling would be a symbolic gesture of the central bank's confidence that rates are down to stay and that the currency crisis that forced it to boost the rate to 12 per cent from 10 per cent on Jan. 5 is now over.

Underlining that confidence, Economic Minister Edmond Alphandery has said the central bank would repay marks which it borrowed from the Bundesbank several weeks ahead of schedule.

He said three-month money rates would fall significantly by mid-year but warned that the authorities would not force the pace since that could prompt new pressure on the franc.

"They will fall on their own. There is no question of pushing them down," he told Europe 1 Radio.

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## Bosnian Serbs say no-fly zone will bring more war

SARAJEVO (R) — The NATO operation to police a United Nations no-fly zone over Bosnia could intensify the war in the former Yugoslav republic, according to Bosnia's rebel Serbs.

Radovan Karadzic said that while his side would not provoke an incident, rival Croat and Muslim forces might do so.

"The Muslim side or the Croatian side may shoot down some of the aircraft and that would be a real escalation of the war," he told Reuters Television Saturday evening at the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale, near Sarajevo.

Enforcement of the no-fly zone declared by the U.N. last October is scheduled to begin at 1200 GMT Monday. The 50 or 60 NATO fighters being used in the operation are ready to shoot down violators if necessary.

Concern about possible reprisals against U.N. troops delivering humanitarian aid in Bosnia has led NATO to order its pilots only to open fire after repeated warnings to intruders, or in self defense.

Mr. Karadzic said the U.N. resolution on the no-fly zone was "absolutely unnecessary" because the Bosnian Serbs were not violating the flight ban.

The U.N. has recorded some 500 violations of Bosnian airspace, mostly by Serb fixed-wing

aircraft and helicopters.

Commander Barry Frewer, a spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force in Sarajevo, said the Serbs last week violated the exclusion zone by using helicopters to transport troops involved in the siege of the Muslim town of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has suspended its aid flights into Sarajevo on security grounds ahead of the start of the no-fly zone operations.

UNHCR spokesman John McMillan said the decision had been taken because of the presence of Serb anti-aircraft guns near Sarajevo Airport, the threat to aid aircraft overflying Serb territory and Thursday's discovery by the Serbs of ammunition being smuggled to Muslim fighters in Srebrenica.

U.N. efforts to evacuate up to 15,000 more refugees from Srebrenica were expected to resume Monday, Mr. McMillan said.

This time, covered trucks would be used as Muslim leaders in Srebrenica had refused to let refugees board open trucks Saturday, saying evacuees would be exposed to extreme cold.

If Srebrenica was relatively quiet, there were numerous reports of fighting elsewhere in Bosnia, with each side accusing the other of violating the ceasefire first declared on March 28.

Russia initiated a diplomatic offensive this weekend to prevent the U.N. Security Council from adopting a resolution Monday tightening sanctions against Yugoslavia, diplomats said.

President Boris Yeltsin sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton, presumably to get a delay in the vote which is designed to punish Serbs for resisting a peace accord in Bosnia, they said.

Some Russian officials were contemplating a veto if the vote was held Monday as scheduled, the envoys added.

In Washington, London and Paris, officials contacted each other to decide whether to press for a vote and how to assess whether Russia would veto the measure.

Russia has not vetoed a Security Council resolution since 1984. Moscow has a policy of not abstaining on any vote, believing that differences with the four other permanent members of the Council — the United States, Britain, France and China — have to be worked out in advance.

Western envoys believed it would be risky for Moscow to cast a no vote ahead of a Group of Seven meeting in Tokyo this week when finance and foreign ministers of the major industrial nations will discuss aid for Russia.

Meanwhile an opinion poll said Americans are growing more wary of any involvement in the Yugoslav civil war and oppose sending U.S. troops to deliver humanitarian aid or restore peace in Bosnia.



RODHAM FUNERAL: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton enters the presidential limousine as she leaves the Court Street United Methodist Church after attending her father's funeral. Her father, Hugh Rodham died in Little Rock, Arkansas, after suffering a stroke on Mar. 19 (AFP photo)

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### U.N. must stop Khmer Rouge killings — Hanoi

HANOI (R) — The United Nations and Cambodia's leaders must end massacres of ethnic Vietnamese by the Khmer Rouge Maoist guerrilla army, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said Sunday. Speaking to reporters after welcoming U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for talks in Hanoi, Mr. Kiet made clear the pre-election turmoil in neighbouring Cambodia was the chief issue on his mind. "The secretary-general will have to end the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia," Mr. Kiet said. "Protection of Vietnamese residents is the responsibility of the United Nations and the leadership of Cambodia." Meanwhile the United Nations on Easter Sunday honoured two of its murdered peacekeepers at a ceremony marked by expressions of bitterness over lack of protection for U.N. volunteers in Cambodia. Senior U.N. officials, diplomats, friends and family gathered at the headquarters of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in Phnom Penh for a memorial service for Atsuhiko Nakata, a 25-year-old district election supervisor, and Lay Sok Pheip, his Cambodian interpreter. The two men were gunned down by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia Thursday morning.

#### Tajikistan's former president dies

MOSCOW (R) — Tajikistan's ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev died this weekend at the age of 63, Interfax News Agency said Sunday. Interfax said Mr. Nabiyev's bodyguards had found the body of the former president in his bed. The cause of death had not yet been established. Mr. Nabiyev, then head of the republican Communist Party was in charge of the Central Asian republic from 1982 to 1985. He was sacked shortly after former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev took power and launched his perestroika reforms. But he bounced back in September 1991 when parliament elected him president after a failed coup attempt by Soviet hardliners. The election set off a year of bloody fighting between his supporters and a coalition of Muslim activists and democrats. He was forced to resign in September last year. The opposition coalition took control but was soon ousted by ex-Communist forces after fierce fighting throughout the impoverished republic. Interfax said Mr. Nabiyev's funeral would take place Monday in Khojand, his northern stronghold.

#### U.S. shuttle deploys satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery Sunday deployed a small satellite designed for a tow-day study of solar wind and the Sun's atmosphere. Mission specialist Ellen Ochoa used the shuttle's triple-jointed robot arm to grasp the 2,840-pound (1,290-kg) spartan satellite, unberth it and set it adrift high above the cargo bay. The \$6 million satellite wobbled once as its onboard telescopes began to function over Europe. Mission Commander Ken Cameron then fired Discovery's steering jets three times to manoeuvre away from the box-shaped satellite, which will fly free until it is retrieved by the shuttle Tuesday. Two telescopes will record information about the solar wind and the Sun's outermost atmosphere — the Corona — and weather patterns of Earth.

## Progress expected at fresh Angola talks

ABIDJAN (R) — Delegates to the latest round of Angolan peace talks, due to open in Ivory Coast Monday, are optimistic that some progress can be made, although a full solution appears remote.

The Abidjan talks follow an inconclusive January round in Addis Ababa after Angola slid back into full-scale civil war. A session scheduled for the Ethiopian capital in February was abandoned because UNITA rebels failed to appear for negotiations with the MPLA government.

Participants at the latest talks hope that at the very least a ceasefire between the warring sides can be arranged as a prelude to further bargaining.

"UNITA does not believe weapons will win, only dialogue will win, we are not warmongers," he said.

Despite the upbeat public statements enormous hurdles remain. Both sides reported con-

## Violence erupts in S. Africa after Hani killing

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police shot dead at least one man Sunday as black South Africans gathered in townships throughout the country to mourn the assassination of their liberation hero Chris Hani.

Residents of Chicken Farm squatter camp in Soweto township outside Johannesburg said three people were killed when police fired without provocation on a Hani commemoration gathering.

Reporters saw one body and several wounded people.

Police had no immediate comment on the shooting but reported four attacks on their officers and white civilians in apparent retaliation for the Hani murder.

About 100 protesters blocked a Cape Town highway with burning tyres Sunday morning. Violent demonstrations were reported in two Cape Town townships Saturday.

African National Congress President Nelson Mandela made an unprecedented appeal for calm on national television Saturday night.

"With all the authority at my command, I appeal to all our people to remain calm and to honour the memory of Chris Hani by remaining a disciplined force for peace," he said.

Mr. Mandela and other political leaders urged South Africans against violent retaliation which would deal a severe blow to negotiations aimed at convening the country's first all-race elections within 12 months.

Newspapers reported Sunday that the man arrested in connection with the murder, Polish immigrant Janusz Wais, 40, was a virulent anti-Communist with links to the extreme right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB).

He was detained after witnesses saw a red car speed from the murder scene at Mr. Hani's home in Boksburg, a satellite town of Johannesburg. Mr. Hani, leader of the South African Communist Party, was hit at point blank range by four bullets.

Leaders of the ANC and SACP met for a second time Sunday to discuss their reaction to the assassination. A spokesman for the ANC's militant Natal Midlands Region said some people wanted to quit the democracy negotiations in protest at the killing.

Police spokesman Brigadier Frank Malherbe said a black detective was shot dead in an ambush in Tembisa township outside Johannesburg Saturday night.

## COLUMN

### Third of Britons don't know what Easter commemorates'

LONDON (AP) — Nearly a third of Britons don't understand the Christian significance of Easter, according to a British newspaper poll Sunday. The Gallup poll found that 69 per cent of those questioned knew that Easter marked the resurrection of Jesus Christ. About two-thirds also identified Judas as the apostle who betrayed Jesus to the Romans. But "most mark the day with nothing more than a chocolate egg," the Sunday Telegraph said in a report headlined "A third of Britons don't know what day it is." The face-to-face poll into levels of Christian knowledge questioned 1,160 people aged 16 and over had a margin of error of about 4 per cent. It found that two-fifths knew Palm Sunday marked Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, while only 18 per cent associated Lent with Christ's fasting in the wilderness. And only one in 10 people polled said they had given up anything for Lent — compared with 88 per cent of respondents when the survey was first conducted in 1939. Only one in five said they intend to visit a place of Christian worship Sunday.

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Joan Baez in Sarajevo to sing for peace

SARAJEVO (R) — American folk singer Joan Baez arrived in the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo Saturday to perform pro-peace benefit concerts and meet its people. Known for her anti-war songs and activism in the 1960s, Baez planned to record a television concert Tuesday and sing publicly in a Sarajevo theatre the next day if security permits. A fragile U.N.-mediated ceasefire has reduced shelling and fighting between besieging Serbs and defending Muslims in the past 10 days but the city is still plagued by sniper fire. Baez, in Sarajevo for five days, flew in on a U.N. peacekeeping force plane hours after singing to crowds of refugees in the Croatian capital Zagreb, moving many to tears with songs like the anthem of non-violent protest. We Shall Overcome.

"I wanted to come from the birth of Christ," the conservative Sunday Telegraph said in its lead editorial, "but as we approach 2,000 years of that era, most of us have come to reject the claims made on behalf of his behalf, and many of us even know what those claims are."

The newspaper argued that "our moral beliefs will decay if they are cut off from their source, just as a stream will become a stagnant pool if it is no longer fed by its spring... This is what is happening in the West today."

Second theft at Vatican reported

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Two days after petty cash was stolen from the Vatican press office, another theft on the Holy See's premises has come to light. News reports said Saturday that thieves lifted two gold medallions from the Treasury Museum in St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Pius XII are worth around \$2,000. The Italian News Agency, ANSA, said. The thief apparently mingled with visitors in the museum, which is not part of the vast Vatican museum complex, and opened up the display cases. The reports said the theft took place in earlier March, but only came to light Saturday.

Nine whites, two blacks and one Hispanic will decide the officers' guilt or innocence. It is a more racially balanced group than the Simi Valley jury, which had no black members.

Moving 'statue' startles faithful

MANILA (R) — Filipinos praying to what they thought was a statue of Jesus Christ got the fright of their lives when it rose from beneath a shroud and ran away during an earthquake. A private radio station said the supplicants were not aware that the figure, covered with a piece of cloth and lying on a wooden plank, was a real man. It was not the earthquake which scared the people. It was after Christ rose that they scampered... they thought a miracle had occurred.

It said Kim Hang-Kyung, who was in Seoul for a conference, left to discuss anti-riot measures with U.S. authorities.

## Hong Kong to push for fair elections

LONDON (AP) — Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten vowed in a newspaper column published Sunday to push for clean, fair elections in the colony, and said he was not bothered by recent "name-calling" by China.

Mr. Patten wrote in the Sunday Express that he hoped Britain and China would soon resume talks on how the 1995 legislative elections could be conducted.

The elections would be the last under British administration, as Hong Kong is due to revert to Chinese rule in 1997.

Mr. Patten wants to broaden

the electorate, but China disagrees, fearing greater democracy in Hong Kong could lead to pressure for similar changes inside China.

"I very much hope that the argument that we are having with China at the moment will be resolved, but it is important for us all to be clear what it is all about," Mr. Patten wrote in the column.

The argument really boils down to whether the 1995 elections...will be conducted cleanly, openly, and fairly or whether they will be rigged to produce a

a

rubber-stamp legislature guaranteed to be compliant rather than potentially troublesome," he wrote.

Mr. Patten said he believes a legislature "arrived at cleanly, fairly and openly, and not cooked to be acceptable to one particular party or another, is fundamental to the rule of law."

China has warned Mr. Patten that if he goes ahead with his plans to extend voting rights, it will replace the colonial government in 1997 and tear up all business contracts signed under the British administration.

He said Russia needs free multiparty elections as soon as possible rather than the vote of confidence in the president set for April 25.

"We simply have no time now for referendums," Mr. Gorbachev said at the Richmond Forum as he started a four-day speaking tour of Virginia.

Mr. Gorbachev said since his fall from power in 1991, political and economic reforms have been failing. In addition, real incomes in his country have fallen by half and crime has risen during that time, he said.

But he said millions of Russians still support the reform efforts that he began during his six years in power.

"Reform in Russia can succeed," Mr. Gorbachev said. He called for the support of the industrialised world in providing financial help and credit to Russia. He said his country wants to be a partner in high technology projects and not just a supplier of raw materials.

Meanwhile, two weeks before a crucial referendum, President Yeltsin appears to have chosen his tactics — ignore the conservative parliament but try to please ordinary Russians, even at the expense of his market reforms.

Since last Wednesday, Mr. Yeltsin has frozen domestic oil prices and reversed an unpopular petrol price hike, banned rent increases, found kind words for World War II veterans and held a televised meeting with media bosses to map out his strategy.

He has also said the world "would shudder" if he lost the referendum. Russia would be drawn back to the dark ages of totalitarian rule and could face the danger of disintegration.

IRNA quoted the Azeri ambassador as saying Armenians had seized positions on a hill overlooking Fizuli and had seized the village of Govshay, four kilometres from the town. Artillery fire had caused "significant destruction" to Fizuli, it said.

The Azeri Turan agency said Armenians had taken up positions on a hill overlooking Fizuli and had seized the village of Govshay, four kilometres from the town. Artillery fire had caused "significant destruction" to Fizuli, it said.

He urged Tehran to take action through appropriate channels to prevent the advance of Armenian forces inside Azerbaijan territory," the agency added.

TASS said Azeri forces had destroyed an Armenian T-72 tank and a Grad multiple rocket launcher.

On Friday, Russian President Boris Yeltsin offered to mediate in the conflict which has spilled over the borders of the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mostly by Armenians but placed under Azeri jurisdiction since 1923.

In a message to the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Mr. Yeltsin called for an immediate ceasefire followed by peace talks.

TASS, quoting military sources in Karabakh's Armenian-controlled capital Stepanakert, reported fighting inside the enclave Saturday.

Separate offensives by Azeri forces in southeast Karabakh and in the northern area of Mardakert were repulsed, it said.

Authorities are trying to calm widespread fear of new riots.

"As soon as the case went to the jury, Los Angeles Police Chief